AP World History
1st
 6 Weeks

Dear Parent or Guardian,
The World History: Modern AP course content is structured around the investigation of six course themes and 19
key concepts in six different chronological periods, from approximately 8000 B.C.E. to the present. The AP World
History: Modern course develops students’ capacity and ability to think and reason in a deeper, more systematic
way, better preparing them for subsequent college courses. This course will use a college-level textbook and
supplemental readings, documents, essays, and books on specific topics and themes.
The skills, course themes, periodization, and key concepts follow the AP curriculum framework:
THEME 1: HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT
THEME 2: CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS AND INTERACTIONS
THEME 3: GOVERNANCE
THEME 4: ECONOMIC SYSTEMS
THEME 5: SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND ORGANIZATION
THEME 6: TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
The themes and key concepts are intended to provide foundational knowledge for future college-level course work
in history. Extra time is required on the part of AP students for class preparation, outside reading, and completion
of assignments. AP courses provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college
introductory courses. Students who take World History AP are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in
the spring.
For the 1st 6 weeks grading period, students will be engaged in course work over the following units of study:
Unit 1: Historical Foundations
The Historical Foundations unit primarily focuses on the Agricultural Revolution and the emergence of sedentary
civilizations. In addition, an introduction to world belief systems and their role in government. Lastly, the growth
of empires like Rome, Han China, and the Abbasids.
Unit 2: The Global Tapestry
State formation and development demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity in various regions. As the
Abbasid Caliphate fragmented, new Islamic political entities emerged, most of which were dominated by Turkic
peoples. Empires and states in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity