**WORLD HISTORY SYLLABUS 2018-2019**

**GRADE 9 – Mr. Lee**

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**OVERVIEW**

Too often history ranks atop the list of classes students find most boring. The typical history class, unfortunately, is one in which the teacher imparts massive amounts of irrelevant trivia through lectures to a captive audience. To ensure that the students have “mastered” the material, the teacher distributes worksheets or assigns check-up questions which are placed strategically throughout the textbook. The culminating activity of these units is a chapter or unit test. I do not intend to take this approach.

An important, KEY, aspect of this course is the sharpening and honing of critical thinking skills. In this class, we shall focus not so much on what happened in the course of World History, but why it happened; how it affected people; how it was perceived and interpreted by people; what the implications of these events are for us and for those who come after us.

Thus, while you can still expect an exciting and stimulating lecture from time to time and worksheets that will reinforce or guide your learning; the major focus of this class will be student driven. Within topics you will decide what to learn, and in many cases how you will learn it. You will delve into topics that hopefully are interested and relevant to you. You will experience a variety of techniques and strategies of learning including debates, videos, art projects, computer presentations, and research assignments. You will make extensive use of the resources our school and community have to offer; including: the media center, computers, field trips, and community resources. You will work individually and collectively, depending on the task. Group work will be an important component of the class. You will even have the opportunity to step into the role of the teacher.

I hope this course will be enjoyable to you. I guarantee it will be challenging. You will have much latitude in what you do, but I will be demanding in evaluating the quality in how you do it. I firmly believe that what you “get out of something” is directly related to what you put into it. Your presence in the class is very important.

We can have fun and academic success when these few simple rules are followed by everyone:

**Classroom Conduct:**

1) **Respect Other Opinions:** There will be a tremendous amount of group discussion and small group work; without respect these (and other activities) would be impossible. Every person in the classroom is entitled to have his/her opinion(s) heard in a safe environment, free from ridicule. You may not agree with someone’s opinion, but please respect his/her right to be heard!

2) **Be on time to class**: Attendance is required and will be taken daily. If you arrive late make sure you have a signed pass. More than three (3) tardies in a quarter will result in a detention.

3) **Participation is expected:** I have designed classroom activities and informative sessions to coincide to better help you understand the material; without participation the learning process is greatly hindered and you might find yourself trailing behind others in academic success.

4) **Report a bad day:** Everybody has bad days; it’s going to happen! If you are having a particularly bad day, please inform me. If I am aware of this fact, I can modify my teaching to accommodate the situation. Please don’t wait until I call on you for an answer or assign you to a small group activity before you let me know (either directly a.k.a. telling me, or indirectly a.k.a. having a verbal altercation with me or another fellow student).

6) **Required materials** are expected to be brought daily; including a pen, #2 pencils, handouts, and your notebook.

7) **Makeup Work** is the responsibility of the student. If you hand-in work one day to one week late, you may still receive up to 80% credit. If you hand-in work more than one week late, you may still receive up to 50% credit. I will not accept work any late work once the marking period has closed.

8) **Academic dishonesty** will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for completing their own work. Any violation will follow the Avon High School plagiarism policy.

9) **The Cell Phone Charging Station**. **Cell phones** are not allowed in class. BUT I am not unreasonable. *So here’s how cell phones will work in our class: sometimes we need them to look something up quick, but most of the time, you know they’re a major distraction to your education. And that’s what you’re here for after all, right? Well, the bottom line here in this room is that I don’t want to see them out and being a distraction, but I also want you to learn how to control your own behaviors and be able to use them at appropriate times.*

*So here’s what we’re going to do: if you know that you can’t handle the distraction for the day, drop your phone off at the charging station. Plug it in, turn the ringer off, and just forget about it for the class period. You won’t even be tempted to look, plus, when class is over, you’ll probably be back to a full charge! For those of you who choose to take your chances and I have to ask you more than once to put your phones away, the second time I see the phone I’ll simply ask you to walk it over to the charging station since you couldn’t follow the first warning****. If the breaking of this simple rule becomes a habit, your phone will be confiscated and a parent must pick it up.***

\*Cell Phones must be left behind if you are going to the bathroom or nurse.

10) **Food** is not allowed in class. Consume all drinks and snacks before entering the classroom. Water is allowed.

**COURSE CONTENT & THEMES:**

Units Themes

Western Sub-Saharan Africa Power & Governance

The Islamic World Belief Systems & Cultural Practices

Renaissance & Reformation Trade, Business & Economic Systems

Absolutism & the Rise of Nations Social Classes & Social Institutions

Age of Exploration Interactions & Cultural Diffusion

Aztec and Incan Civilizations

Age of Reason (Scientific Revolution & Enlightenment)

Revolutions (French & Latin)

**Grading Policy:**

We will be following the same grading scale as the rest of the social studies department. **A+=96.5-100, A=92.5-96, A-= 89.5-92, B+= 86.5-89, B= 82.5-86, B-= 79.5-82, C+= 76.5-79, C= 72.5-76, C-= 69.5-72, D= 64-69, F= 50-63.5.** Cheating on tests or individual assignments will not be tolerated, and we will follow the AHS policy that can be found in the student handbook

**Extra Credit:**

There will be opportunities presented throughout the term for extra credit at my discretion.