

# HONORS WORLD HISTORY

MR. RYAN GILL

CLASS SYLLABUS

ROOM: C409

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*The subject of history is the life of peoples and of humanity. To catch and pin down in words--that is, to describe directly the life, not only of humanity, but even of a single people, appears to be impossible. – Leo Tolstoy*

## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

World History is a required course at Woburn Memorial High School. This course will cover the major civilizations, events, and intercultural interactions throughout the world from the fall of the Roman Empire through the Enlightenment. Political, economic, cultural, social, and religious history will be addressed throughout these time periods.

### Objectives:

- ✓ Create an understanding as to how the current world has been shaped through the context of its history.
- ✓ Focus on analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of historical documents and sources.
- ✓ Enhance critical thinking skills through forming opinions on historical methods and topics.
- ✓ Begin preparation for college-bound tasks, assessments, and responsibilities.

## CLASSROOM POLICIES

As your teacher this year, I have an obligation (and desire) to prepare you the best I possibly can for college. In order for this to happen, the following guidelines have been established. We have an incredible amount of material to go cover, so the more cooperative you are the better.

1. Know and follow all guidelines within the student handbook.
2. Respect the teacher, your fellow classmates, and the classroom.
3. Do not be late for class – When you arrive, take your seat and be prepared for class.
4. Bring all required materials to class – 1. Book, 2. Pen or Pencil, 3. Notebook
5. Food and Drinks are allowed, but this is a privilege and can be taken away.
6. Any cell phones, gaming devices, iPods, or other electronic devices are strictly prohibited during class.

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF COURSE CONTENT

Beginning Unit: World Religions and Systems of Belief

Unit 1: The Emergence and Expansion of Islam to 1500

Unit 2: The Medieval Period in Europe to 1500

Unit 3: Encounters between Christianity and Islam to 1500

Unit 4: The Origins of European Western Expansion and the Civilizations of South and Central America

Unit 5: African History to 1800

Unit 6: Indian History to 1800

Unit 7: History of China, Japan, and Korea to 1800

Unit 8: Renaissance and Reformation in Europe

Unit 9: Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment in Europe  
Unit 10: The Growth and Decline of Islamic Empires

## ASSESSMENTS, PROJECTS, AND GRADING

### HOMEWORK – 10%

Homework is primarily reading, but may also include short essays, questions to answer, studying, signing progress reports, or prepared remarks. Homework is expected on time and will not be accepted late. The amount of homework I give per term may vary greatly – sometimes 10 assignments, sometimes 2 – so failure to do homework may count drastically against your term average.

### TESTS & QUIZZES – 50%

Tests and quizzes will be given throughout the year to assess the bulk of what you have learned over the year. Term exams will be given at the end of each term and will be cumulative for that term. Tests and quizzes will always be announced at least 1 day prior to the test date. The major difference between tests and quizzes are based on length and weight (how much it is worth to your overall grade). \*If you know about a test before an absence you will be required to take the test upon returning to school.\*

### CLASS PARTICIPATION – 20%

Your participation in class is exceedingly important. Without your participation, the classes will become stale and boring, for I can only do so much to provide an exciting classroom. The main purpose for class participation is its function as a learning tool in college. As college-bound students, the bulk of your assessment in college will be through class participation. Be prepared to speak your mind and ask as many relevant questions as possible. Participation may also take the form of postings on our class discussion board (see below for more info)

### PROJECTS – 20%

Projects may take many forms and are designed to let you express your knowledge creatively, thoughtfully, and artistically. Research papers will allow you to develop your research skills and argue your points of view. Oral Presentations will allow you to enhance your public speaking skills while developing a creative method of using technology.

## CLASS REQUIREMENTS – (YOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT)

1. Visit and book and class website on your home computer. These will be used frequently throughout the year to enhance your learning, provide you with important links, and allow for more detailed class discussions.  
<http://home.comcast.net/~ryanpgill/>
2. Create a Gmail Account. You will need to do this in order to gain access to your class's discussion board. See the website above and be sure to FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!
3. Cover your book... and don't lose it! If you don't return your assigned book by the end of the year you will be charged an obligations fee of \$80, which, if not paid, will prevent you from graduating.

## AVAILABILITY

I am available before and after school any day of the week by student/parent request. I am here for your educational needs, so use my services as you see fit.

Please print and submit this page to Mr. Gill by September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008

My signature below indicates that I understand all of the information on the syllabus provided to me by Mr. Gill for the Honors World History Class. I intend to comply with the information provided within the World History Syllabus as well as the rules provided by the Woburn Memorial High School Student Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

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Student Name (Printed)

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Parent/Guardian Name (Signature)

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Student Name (Signature)

Date \_\_\_\_\_