

Modern World History

And if all others accepted the lie which the Party imposed- if all records told the same tale- then the lie passed into history and became truth. 'Who controls the past' ran the Party slogan, 'controls the future: who controls the present controls the past.' George Orwell 1984

History is more than just stories about people in funny hats in strangely named places. We study history because how we interpret the past (and the meaning we choose to give to certain events or people) often says a lot about who we are today and what we as a society have as shared goals. History is made by people like you, and without a solid understanding of the past, we will never be able to understand the context of the present, or predict our futures.

The title of this course is "Modern World History", however, there is room for considerable debate about whose history to study, when exactly "modern" begins, and whether or not we are studying the whole world. For our approach to the course we will consider "modern" history to be the time when peoples' ideas and their ability to put them into action trumped traditional power structures. We will spend our time studying the events, ideas, people, social systems, and geographies that have created our current world. The world changes quickly, the revolutions and conflicts in Tunisia, Syria, Ukraine, and Egypt may someday be viewed in the same way we view previous revolutions in Haiti, Russia, France, etc.

Our course will not be a chronological approach to world history. Instead, it will move fluidly across time, linking ideas, themes, and concepts from current or recent events, explaining historical context through history. There will be a strong emphasis on acquiring historical research skills, analytical thinking & writing skills, public presentation skills, computer skills, and cooperative problem solving skills that will help you be successful in this class, in your other courses, and prepare you for a lifetime of active civic engagement.

Course Alignment with Standards

This course is designed to develop the skills, knowledge, and dispositions which global citizenship requires. Students completing this course will learn and practice skills that will be applicable in their present and future lives and careers. This Modern World History course is aligned with several of the Oregon State Social Study Standards.

Classroom Rights

This list, co-created by students and Mr. Sixta, lists some of your rights as students in this classroom.

1. You have the right to an education.
2. You have the right to property and privacy.
3. You have the right to health and safety.
4. You have the right to give input and be heard regarding your educational environment.
5. You have the right to be treated with respect from your peers, teachers and others in this classroom.

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Mr. Sixta's commitment to ensuring student rights

1. Every student in my class has the opportunity to receive an equitable education that is relevant, engaging, interesting, and useful for their life.
2. This classroom is a safe environment for all students. Hateful speech and violent actions will not be tolerated.
3. Students and their families receive the respect of person, property, and privacy that they deserve and are entitled to as students, citizens, and residents of the Butte Falls High School Community.

Texts

- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994. Print.
- Beck, R. B., Linda Black, Larry Krieger, Phillip Naylor, Dahia Shabaka. *Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction*. Evanston: McDougal Littell, 2007. Print.
- Mizuki, Shigeru, and Zack Davisson. *Showa: a History of Japan, 1926-1939*. Print.
- Mizuki, Shigeru, and Zack Davisson. *Showa, 1939-1944: a History of Japan*. Print.

In addition to the text listed above we will also use materials from *The Choices Program* from Brown University, PBS, and other fiction and nonfiction materials.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Prepare for every class by completing assigned readings and written work
- Actively participate in all learning experiences in every class discussion
- Support the learning of their peers
- Bring a binder, paper, and writing utensil to class every day

Course Outline

This is a tentative outline of the topics and when they will be covered over the course of the semester. The schedule may change as relevant opportunities arise.

<u>SEMESTER 1</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Week 2-3	9/11
Week 3-4	Ways of Knowing Truth
Week 4-9	Columbian Exchange (<i>Writing Skill: Maps</i>)
Week 10-13	World Religions (<i>Writing Skill: Quotations</i>)

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Week 14-17	Geography & African Colonization - (<i>Writing Skill: Graphics & Charts</i>)
Week 18	Finals
<u>SEMESTER 2</u>	
Week 1-4	National History Day
Week 6-7	World War I & II <i>Part I</i>
Week 8-12	Modern Japan
Week 13-14	World War I & II <i>Part II</i>
Week 15-16	Collapse of Colonization
Week 17	Geopolitics of 20th Century
Week 18	Finals

Evaluations

There will be multiple types of evaluation over the course of this semester. I am a firm advocate that consistent qualitative and quantitative feedback will help you get more out of your studies. In addition to receiving traditional grades for this course, I will regularly write comments on papers, tests, projects, and other assignments for this course. During class, I will make time to talk with you about the projects you are working on and expect that you will hold me accountable for providing feedback on your work or clarifying assignments. Other forms of communicating evaluation will be done by:

1. **Quarterly conferences** will be conducted between student and instructor to discuss classroom learning, social skill development, and portfolio projects.
2. **Proficiency:** School Districts in the State of Oregon are moving to a proficiency-based approach of measuring student achievement. As a result, we will have at least one proficiency report card showing which Oregon State Social Study Standards you have mastered and which still need to be completed. As we progress this year, I will communicate with you and your caregiver more about the goals and meaning of this proficiency report card.
3. **Formal Course Grades**
 The grades for the course will be based on the following elements.
 - a. **Units** (60% = 5 Units x 12%): Each semester will have five units during which we spend a few weeks looking in depth at a particular topic. Each unit will be structured differently and composed of different assignments and projects. Grading for the unit will be an aggregate of the individual skills learned and demonstrated during that unit.

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- b. **Notes (15%):** As you explore the context for our modern world, we will also spend time reading, watching, and discussing current events. You will regularly summarize current events and maintain a class notebook with your notes, readings, field notes, and assignments to be turned in every quarter.
- c. **Writing Skills- Four Areas of Focus (15%):** Each semester we will focus on improving four specific areas of formal written communication. You will have writing assignments that build off previous skill as the year progresses. The four areas of focus are:

1st Semester	2nd Semester
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Maps● Citations● Summaries & Paraphrases● Quotations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Diversity of Source Material● Outlines● Drafting● Graphics & Charts

- d. **Final (10%):** At the end of first semester there will be a culminating final covering the material from first semester. At the end of the year there will be a culminating project that will include a paper, presentation, and discussion.

Honors Option

This class has an honors option that can be taken either or both semesters. Requirements for the honors option will be explained in the third or fourth week of each semester and can be provided upon request.

Policy On Electronic Devices

Though we will use cell phones and laptops in class many times to reference information and to support one another's learning, to enhance individual and collective focus all phones need to be silenced during class sessions. In addition, please refrain from texting and other forms of electronic "chatting" and "surfing" the web during class activities and discussions. Use of Facebook, Snapchat, and other social media that doesn't relate to class material are not allowed during the class period. If you need to communicate electronically or check the Internet, please do so before or after class. Electronic devices cannot only distract the user but they can also be disruptive to your peers' ability to concentrate, focus, and learn. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Academic Integrity

There will be no tolerance for plagiarism or any other academic dishonesty. In particular, papers with plagiarized ideas or languages will be graded "NC" and must be rewritten with proper citations and references if the student intends to pass the course for credit. The consequences for plagiarism are that a student will receive the grade of "NC" for any unit that contains plagiarised or other academic dishonesty and the work will need to be redone and resubmitted.

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