

Monte Vista Christian School
7th Grade World History
Ms. Gilleland, Instructor
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

An exploration of the main influences that have driven World history in general and European History in particular from the Arabian Peninsula through the Age of Discovery. This course will be biased toward those cultures that had an impact on the development of the United States and its democratic ideals. The impacts of Christianity, both positive and negative, will be discussed in this class when applicable. Emphasis will be placed on group projects, activities, research, assessments (both formative and summative), and class discussions. Special attention will be directed to learning small group communication and collaboration, 21st Century Skills, critical thinking, and making connections between the material learned in class and their everyday life.

Curricular Mapping:

This course picks up where the 6th grade courses finish and carries the student through an exploration of world history that will continue in High School. This course also prepares the student for 8th grade by introducing the concepts and governmental norms that influenced the founders of the United States.

Course Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Clarify and describe what is known through archaeological studies of the physical and cultural development of humankind from the medieval to the early modern times.
2. Analyze, describe, explain, and discuss the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Arabia, Africa, China, Europe.
3. Critically think and discuss current social issues with clarity and precision and to use multiple approaches and solutions to solve problems.
4. Connect learning to meaningful real-life experiences and cultural backgrounds.
5. Ask critical questions and consider diverse perspectives on a variety of topics to extend thinking.
6. Collaborate productively with peer while demonstrating an understanding of common interpersonal skills and elements of productive group work.
7. Use 21st Century Skills to apply new knowledge and to help facilitate change.
8. Frame essential questions that can be answered by historical study and research
9. Distinguish fact from opinion, relevant and irrelevant information, and verifiable and unverifiable information in historical narratives and stories.
10. Examine and assess the credibility of primary and secondary sources and draw conclusions from them.

11. Explain central issues and problems from the past.
12. Distinguish cause, effect, sequence and correlation in historical events and relations.
13. Construct various timelines of key events, people, and periods of the historical era.
14. Identify physical and cultural features on a variety of maps and documents.
15. Explain how major historical events are related to one another
16. Recognize and understand that interpretations of history are subject to change as new information is uncovered. Recognize the role of chance, oversight, and error in history.

Grading:

All assessments and assignments will be weighted as follows:

Assessments = 55%

(Quizzes, tests, projects)

Assignments = 45%

(Classwork, homework, small projects)

***Note:** Extra Credit points are not included in the grading. The students are expected to demonstrate mastery in the original assignments and assessments only.

Course Outline:

First Semester

- I. Uncovering the Past
 - a. Studying History
 - b. Studying Geography
- II. The Early Middle Ages (Europe)
 - a. Geography of Europe
 - b. Europe after the Fall of Rome
 - c. Feudalism and Manor Life
 - d. Feudal Societies
- III. The Later Middle Ages
 - a. Popes and Kings
 - b. The Crusades
 - c. Christianity and Medieval Society
 - d. Political and Social Change
 - e. Challenges to Church Authority
 - f. The Reformation

Second Semester

- IV. The Islamic World (Arabia)
 - a. The Roots of Islam
 - b. Islamic Beliefs and Practices
 - c. Islamic Empires
 - d. Cultural Achievements

V. Early African Civilizations (Africa)

- a. Geography and Early Africa
- b. The Empire of Ghana
- c. Later Empires
- d. Historical and Artistic Traditions

VI. Asian Civilizations (China)

- a. China Reunified
- b. Tang and Song Achievements
- c. Confucianism and Government
- d. The Yuan and Ming Dynasties

Text:

Your necessary digital texts for this class are part of a “Required Course Materials Fee” thru the EdTech bookstore. This bundle has your students schedule preloaded and the bulk of their required course materials already prepackaged for you. You were sent an email on 7/25/16 with detailed instructions for purchasing and activation. Please note: some courses may require additional purchases outside of the course materials fee.

Classroom Supplies:

Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn and engage on a daily basis.

Students should have the following supplies each and every day:

- A fully charged iPad
- iPad charger (this can be stored in the locker)
- A pair of iPad earphones (this can be stored in the locker)
- Pens, pencils, highlighter
- Paper

Class Policies:

The following policies are non-negotiable. Please see the teacher if you have any concerns with your ability to follow these policies:

1. Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.
2. Respect: Respect your teacher and fellow classmates.
3. Attendance: Students are expected to be in class daily. If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to get the classwork and homework missed.
4. Tardiness: When the bell rings, be in your seat and ready to start class.
5. Late work: Homework is due when it is collected in class. Late work will be accepted but for a maximum of 50% (except for excused absences).
6. Enjoy water (in a bottle) in class, but not food or other drinks unless teacher has given permission.
7. Students are expected to be prepared for class each day.

School Policies:

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as printed in the Student Handbook. It is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of the school. This can be found on the Monte Vista website.

Requested Apps:

Students will be asked to come to Social Studies 7 with the following apps loaded onto their iPads. As new and worthwhile apps are released, additional apps may be required during the course of the year. Please plan on budgeting \$20 for additional apps. Such requests will be preceded by an email home to parents informing them of the app request.

Notability (\$)

Keynote (\$)

Pages (\$)

iMovie (\$)

Doceri (free)

Haiku Deck (free)

Google Drive, Google Slides, Google Docs (free)

Pic Collage (free)

Any problem loading Apps, please see the teacher or the Help Desk on the first day of school.

Technology Support:

The teachers, administration, and the Help Desk are all here to support parents and students with the implementation of the iPad into the educational experience. While the Help Desk can assist with technical issues that arise, teachers and administration take care to guide students in their role as digital citizens by promoting principles and values set forth through Common Sense Media and Social and Emotional Intelligence resources. Any concerns and/or questions regarding the role technology plays in a student's daily life may be communicated through an email to the teacher.

Tips for the Students:

1. Be proactive in improving your skills, work hard, come to class prepared, and seek help early.
2. Do all assignments completely and according to the instructions.
3. Be respectful of others.
4. Participate.
5. Ask questions.

Miscellaneous:

You will be able to access your grades on Focus. (Parents – Be aware the grade you see in Focus during first week or two of any quarter might not be indicative of your student's final grade.)

Instructor Contact:

1. Office Hours: Monday - Friday 3:20 - 3:45

2. Room: M12
3. Email: michellegilleland@mvcs.org
4. School Extension: 472

*The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus.

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
7th Grade World History
Ms. Gilleland, Instructor
Terms of Agreement

This syllabus is a contract between the instructor and the student with a parent/ guardian witness. As an instructor of this course, I am committed to abiding by this syllabus. As a student of this course, you also are expected to abide by this syllabus. By signing this Terms of Agreement, you are affirming that you have read and agree to abide by the guidelines, policies and agreements stated in this syllabus.

As a student of this course, I have read and agree to abide by the guidelines, policies and agreements stated in this syllabus.

Student Signature

Print Student Name

Date

As the parent/guardian, I have read and agree to support this student in an effort to follow the guidelines, policies and agreements stated in this syllabus.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Date