

HUMANITIES I HONORS

(Pre AP World History)

Welcome to Valhalla High School and the Humanities I Honors Geography course, otherwise known as Pre-AP World History. The Pre-AP World History program is intended to prepare ninth grade students for the world of Advance Placement (AP). In particular it can be viewed as AP World History part I at the ninth grade with part II coming in the tenth grade. We will look at the historical content of an AP World; however, our focus will be on developing the skills necessary to succeed in Advanced Placement courses--in particular 10th grade AP World History. Ideally, students who succeed in this class will move on to AP World History at the tenth grade and take the AP exam in May of 2014. Although the focus is on students who intend to follow the AP path, any and all freshmen are encouraged to take the course. The skills that will be developed in this class will prove invaluable in any future academic classes in the future.

What is Advanced Placement? AP Courses are college level courses taught during high school in which students can receive college credit for passing the AP Exam at the end of the year. AP was created to better prepare students to enter and succeed in college.

The purpose of the course, however, extends beyond the possibility of earning college credit by providing students with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge that will form a useful foundation for college studies. A recent study of this “AP Effect” reported the following results:

- I Better prepared academically for college**
- I More likely to specialize in majors with tougher grading standards**
- I More likely to complete more college course work**
- I More likely to take subjects in their AP subject area**
- I Likely to perform significantly better over four years of college course work**
- I More likely to be superior in terms of leadership**
- I More likely to make significant accomplishments in college**
- I Twice as likely to do graduate level studies**

To all Students,

We wish to take a moment to explain our position on this class. This class will be quite a challenge for you in the sense that you will be asked to make a massive leap from 8th grade social studies to what is essentially a 1st year college level World History class. To be academically successful in this class you will need to expand your reading skills beyond merely reading the text and remembering to truly understanding the significance of the material. In many cases you'll need to do more than the required directions to 'get it'. You may find that you might have to put in more time than your peers. This is the reality of the class. When (or if) you start to struggle please be your own advocate. This is vital to your success. Although we love parent involvement and participation, they are not in the class it is not their education, it's yours. We will expect you to take responsibility and ownership for your success. In class if you don't get it or it's unclear ASK Questions! Get clarification! We are here to help you learn, but we cannot make you learn. That responsibility lies with you and you alone. We will help you develop a study plan, and study tools-- please be sure to use them. Most often with students who struggle, it's because they haven't used these tools and skills or are using them incorrectly. We are available most days at lunch and after school by appointment. If it's important enough, you will show up. We have a great amount of faith in our student's ability to rise to the occasion and we look forward to helping you with YOUR education.

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To all Parents and Guardians,

As stated above this class in the past has proven to be quite challenging even to students who had a great deal of success in middle school. Most students will go through some sort of struggle. With the added demands on your students' time that come with high school (i.e.- sports, friends, extra-curricular activities) please expect your student to show some signs of struggle. As their teachers we intend to help them as much as possible to achieve success. The AP Curriculum and the College Board, which runs the AP program, set the parameters of the class. The skills that are needed are clear. We will reinforce these skills and hope that your student uses them. If you see that your student is struggling please be sure that you discuss the issue with them as well. Inquire as to whether or not they are taking notes as directed. Are they asking questions in class? Are they caught up on their assignments? Opportunities for 'soft points' are very few. We do not offer any extra-credit assignments to make up points. There are very few bonus opportunities through out the year. You can help your student succeed by doing the following:

- Providing the necessary supplies needed (see page 3)
- Providing a quiet study area free of TV, texting opportunities and limited Internet access.
 - (Occasionally your student will need internet access for some assignments)
- Inquiring about content and skills that we are covering
- Seeing that they get a balanced diet and sufficient sleep
- Scheduling dental and medical appointments well after school
- Loving them and allowing them to begin taking responsibility for their actions
- If your student starts to struggle please encourage them to seek help in tutorial!

Ultimately we want your student to be successful in this class, at Valhalla and beyond, and we look forward to working with students and parents on this endeavor. If you have concerns or questions please feel free to contact me.

Laura Allen and Andrew Troi
Pre-AP World History teachers

Classroom Essentials

Contact Information:

Teacher: Laura Allen	Andrew Troi
Phone: (619) 593-5497	(619)593-5470
Email: lallen@guhsd.net	atroi@guhsd.net
Websites: linked through the Valhalla website	

Class Policies and Procedures

These are the guidelines for how our class will run.

1. **Kind, Polite, Respectful**- This is my expectation on how we will treat each other. There will be no malicious, rude or insensitive comments within class.
2. **Attitude**- Attitude is everything. Keep it positive. We will have a great deal of work to do. A positive focus is necessary for success.
3. **Cheating**- If a student gets caught, they will receive an Academic Dishonesty referral, and a zero for the assignment in question regardless of how trivial the item may be. **Any** type of cheating will have earned the students involved a referral. This includes **unauthorized collaboration**, including giving your notes to someone who missed class or working on an assignment together without express permission from the teacher. **Parents please note that students may not work together unless they have permission.**

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4. **Absences & Make-Up:** It is expected that students complete every item and attend class everyday. If you are absent any item that was due on the day(s) of your absence is (are) due on the day that you return at the start of class. Students are expected to make up any activity from the day that was missed as well. This is your responsibility. You are responsible for the content of each day. Make-up of missed activities (films, notes, etc.) must be completed within 5 school days.
5. **Late Work:** Late work is only accepted with an emergency pass. Students receive four passes for the semester, after that **NO** late items will be accepted. Use the passes wisely.
6. **Tardy:** Come to class on time. The schoolwide tardy policy is as follows: On the 5th tardy a referral to the VP, 10th a 2nd referral & Saturday School.
7. **Phones, Ipods, Other electronic devices:** If you have them out without specific permission from the teacher during class time, for any reason, the item will be confiscated, taken to the Vice Principal's Office and tagged for '**parent pick-up only**'. Repeat offenses will incur increased disciplinary action (detention, Saturday school, referrals).

Materials

Materials should be brought to class every day. Time management and organizational skills are essential for high achievement and should begin with adequate supplies. If you have trouble finding these supplies, please contact your teacher as we have extras available. Please come prepared for class each day.

1. 1½ - 3", 3-ring binder and a great deal of lined paper (100+ sheets to start)
2. 3x5" index cards (50+)
3. Several (3+) Black or Dark Blue Ink Pens
4. Several (3+) #2 Pencils
5. Colored markers, 8-10 colors and highlighters
6. Colored Pencils
7. Planner or calendar- a must have!

Grading

All coursework will be assigned to a category with a percentage value.

Categories Percent of Grade

Tests/Quizzes	25%
Compositions	20%
Homework/Classwork	20%
Projects	15%
Class Participation	5%
Final	15%

Grading Scale

The following grade scale is use in this class:

A	B	C	D	F
100 – 90	89.9 – 80	79.9 – 70	69.9 – 60	59.9 or below

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Essential Skills

Below follows a list and brief descriptions of the essential skills that we will be working on in this class. These items will be the foundations of the class. Students who take advantage of this opportunity to develop these skills will benefit tremendously in any academic class they may encounter in the future.

Reading Skills:

In class your student will be exposed to a reading strategy known as **active reading**. It is a proven strategy to help reading comprehension. We will spend a great deal of time with it in class early in the semester. Our expectation is that students will employ this method as they conduct their assigned readings. In addition to the text, we will also use a great deal of primary source documents that we will learn how to analyze and evaluate.

Note Taking Skills

Our class will use a modified form of the Cornell note taking system. Please be sure that you employ this system when taking notes for any reading or class lessons unless told otherwise. All notes are to be completed correctly to receive any credit. Students will be expected to keep all notes (and other class materials) for the entire year; we will refer back to them quite a few times.

Writing Skills:

We will be going over two of the three required AP essays, the Compare and Contrast Essay and the Document Based Question. Students will be taught to decipher prompts, write essays specific to AP World History. This process will take some time to develop and students will learn the value of editing and revising their work. All take home essays are to be typed, double-spaced and submitted to **Turnitin.com**. With most essays students who are not satisfied with their first grade may re-write and resubmit it for a new grade. There is a certain procedure to follow that will be taught once we get to this stage in the class.

Exams and Quizzes:

We will have a wide variety of quizzes through out the year. Most often they will be focused on our current content but it's open to nearly every thing that we covered for the semester. We will have a test for each chapter that consists of multiple-choice, identifications, and short answer responses. A parent notice will be sent home with most test results.

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Fill out this form with the required signatures then return it to your teacher by 9/5/12.

Pre-AP World History Student and Parent/Guardian Signature Page

Student Name (please print)

Period

Our signatures below indicate that we have read and understood the Pre-AP World History course expectations for Allen/Troi's class, including:

- Contact Information including website
- Classroom Essentials
- Cheating and Academic Honesty Policy
- Tutorial Time
- Late Work
- Make Up
- Phones, Food, Hall Passes
- Grading Categories
- Grading Scale
- Student/Parent Concerns

If you have any questions about these items please contact your teacher immediately.

Print Student Name

Student signature

date

Print Parent Name

Parent Signature

date

Parent Primary contact phone number

secondary phone number

Parent email address

Student email address

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