

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to Advanced Placement World History. If this is your first experience with the Advanced Placement program there are some important differences between a pre-AP and an AP course that you should understand. AP courses are designed and updated annually to reflect what is being taught in college courses. A large part of the curriculum and the pace of the class are set by the requirements of the *Collegeboard*. Students receive an external evaluation, the AP exam, which is scored by both college and high school faculty who verify that the student has mastered college-level studies. Due to the advanced level of the course some of the material we will use will be at the college level, this includes the textbook and supplemental readings. Because of the rigor of AP courses students who earn a “C” or higher will receive a one point bump in their GPA at the end of the year.

One area of focus for the course will be preparing each student for the Advanced Placement World History exam, which will be given during the second week in May. The college-board has a web site (apcentral.collegeboard.com) which answers many questions dealing with the benefits of an AP class as well as the challenges. This may be a helpful site to visit before school begins in the fall. **Students who have not experienced an accelerated course before may not be aware of the volume of work, time constraints, and performance level required for above average grades in an advanced placement class.** Students must expect anywhere from 45-90 minutes of homework per class. Parents/Guardians and students should understand the commitment level involved in taking an AP course. Please use this opportunity to take a look at the sample homework assignment that was made available to students.

If you feel that your student is up for the challenge, please sign this letter (*on reverse side*) and return it to me before the end of the year exams. If you have any questions feel free to call me at the school’s number (703)365-6500 or contact me by email at wattese@pwcs.edu.

Thank you,

Mrs. Watters, Mr. Ragghianti and Mrs. Sabey
Return forms to: Room 2083
Deadline: Before end of the school year

Parents and students: your signatures are an understanding and an acceptance of your responsibility for AP World History and your commitment to a successful year in AP History. Your signatures are also permission to view and read outside sources above and beyond the textbook with the understanding that due to the advanced level of the class some topics may include material appropriate for college (freshman) level. No AP credit will be given until the successful (grade C or above) completion of the course and the completion of the May AP World Exam.

Student name: **(Printed)** _____

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Experience a college-level test

“The intensity of college exams catches far too many freshmen by surprise. Students who have prepared for and taken the AP exams adapt more easily to taking college essay exams, and are especially skilled in including a thesis and a well-developed argument. They are also less intimidated by sophisticated, college-level multiple-choice questions that seek to test understanding over memorization.” Robert Blackey, Professor of History CSU, San Bernardino

Prepare Now to Succeed in College

“A 1999 U.S. Department of Education study found that the strongest predictor of college graduation is something students do before they ever go to college: Participate in rigorous, college-level courses in high school-and AP courses in particular.” Clifford Adelman, *Answers in the Tool Box: Academic Intensity, Attendance Patterns, and Bachelor’s Degree Attainment* (1999), U.S. Department of Education.

This page is for you to keep over the summer! Detach when you turn in permission form.

Advanced Placement World History

Course Summary:

The AP World History Course focuses on developing students' understanding of world history from approximately 8000 B.C.E. to the present. The course has students investigate the content of world history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in six historical time periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they study the past. The course makes connections among historical developments in different times and places encompassing the five major geographical regions of the globe: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania.

Book Purchase:

The AP World curriculum is currently going through a major course revision that impacts the 2019-2020 school year. The *new* review book, *AMSCO Advanced Placement World History: Modern (1200-Present)* is available now for pre-purchase from Perfection Learning and will be shipped in August/September. We understand there may be a delay in the arrival time and we will have a class set of last year's edition for students to use as needed while awaiting orders. The new version is available in either a softcover edition \$18.95, an ebook edition \$18.95 or a bundle that includes the student edition softcover and a 1-year online license for \$24.95. Students will also be issued a textbook provided by the school but past students **STRONGLY** recommend the use of an additional review book and this version is the most closely aligned edition to the AP exam students will be taking in 2020.

