

Advanced Placement Modern European History

I. Textbook

Donald Kagan, Steven M. Ozment, and Frank M. Turner, The Western Heritage: Since 1300, Prentice Hall, New York, N.Y., 2006.

II. Prerequisites

Successful completion of Junior History and approval of Junior History Instructor

III. Course Description

The course is divided into two semesters: (1) the Later Middle Ages through the Industrial Revolution, and (2) the Post-1815 Period to the present. Areas of concentration include social, political, and economic history coupled with an intense study of cultural and intellectual institutions and their development. These areas are studied from a variety of perspectives with the hope of providing a balanced view of history.

IV. Course Goals

The goals of the European History course are to develop (1) an understanding of the principal themes in modern European history, (2) the ability to analyze historical evidence, and (3) the ability to express that understanding and analysis effectively in writing.

V. Course Objectives

The objective of the course is to increase students' understanding and appreciation of European history while helping each student succeed on the AP European History Exam.

VI. Course Sequence

Semester One

A. Contemporary Europe

- Test on a map of present day Europe
- Students do a brief oral report on some aspect of contemporary Europe

B. Renaissance

- Students do smart board presentations on an artist of the Renaissance or Machiavelli
- Video: "The Medici: Godfathers of the Renaissance"

- Each student reads a different chapter in *The Prince* and writes a brief summary and commentary and we discuss those in class

C.Reformation

- Oral report on a religious leader or group
- Video: excerpts from recent version of “Luther”
- Chart on aspects of religions
- Oral report on a character in the English Reformation
- Video: excerpts from “A Man for All Seasons.”

Test

D. Religious Wars

- Oral report on an aspect of the religious wars

E. Constitutionalism and Absolutism

- Oral report on an aspect of England or France in the 1600s
- Video: excerpts from “Cromwell”
- Read Wiesner, Chapter 2, “Staging Absolutism”

Test

F. Thought and Culture in the 16th and 17th centuries

- Oral report on an aspect of the Scientific Revolution
- Video: section on Galileo in “The Medici: Godfathers of the Renaissance” and from “Ascent of Man: Music of the Spheres”

Quarter Test

G. Society and Economy

- Oral reports on a social class or on some aspect of the Industrial Revolution
- Video: excerpts from “Barry Lyndon”

- Read Wiesner, Chapter 4, “A Statistical View of Rural Life”

H. Enlightenment

- Oral report on some thinker or aspect of the Enlightenment

I. French Revolution

- Read Wiesner, Chapter 1, “: Peasant Violence”
- Read articles by Lefebvre, Egret, Eisenstein and Godechot in French Revolution: Conflicting Interpretations by Kafker and Laux, write a paper on coming of the revolution, and give an oral report on that
- Read Wiesner, Chapter 5, “A Day in the French Revolution”
- Smart board presentation on a different period in the revolution
- Videos: excerpts from “Danton” and “Start the Revolution Without Me”
- Brief paper on whether the violence of the revolution was necessary

J. Napoleon

- Oral report on some aspect of Napoleon, judging whether that was a continuation of the policies of the Revolution or a new departure

Semester Exam

Semester Two

K. Economic Advance and Social Unrest

- Read Wiesner, Chapter 6, “Labor Old and New”
- Brief smart board presentation on some aspect of social life in the 19th century
- Video: excerpts from “Germinal”
- Read Wiesner, Chapter 7, “Liberalism and Socialism”

L. Age of Nation-States

- Students write a paper on Bismarck’s policies leading to the unification of Germany or Cavour’s policies leading to Italian Unification

Test

M. Society and Politics to World War I

- Read Wiesner, Chapter 8, "Vienna and Paris"
- Read Wiesner, Chapter 10, "Art, 1870-1920"

N. World War I

- Read Wiesner, Chapter 9, "New Imperialism"
- Videos: excerpts from "Victoria's Empire" and "Khartoum"
- Each student writes a paper and gives an oral report on the extent to which a certain country is responsible for the outbreak of war.

O. Political Experiments of the 1920s

- Oral report on some aspect of the Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin to 1931

Quarter Test

P. Great Depression

- Oral report on some aspect of totalitarianism in Germany, Italy, the Soviet Union or Spain or the threat of totalitarianism in other European countries
- Videos: brief excerpts from "Dr. Zhivago" and "Reds," and "Triumph of the Will"

Q. World War II and The Cold War

- Students will report on a crisis in the Cold War
- Videos: excerpts from "Atomic Cafe," "Dr. Strangelove," and "Bananas"
- Read Wiesner, Chapter 14, Youth in the 1960s

Test

R. Dawn of the 21st Century

- Read Wiesner, Chapter 15, "Migration and the Problem of Assimilation"
- Oral report on some aspect of modern culture: music, art, architecture, conveniences, etc.
- Paper and oral report on some aspect of contemporary Europe: collapse of Soviet Union, European Union, etc.

Final Exam

VII. Evaluation

Exams/Tests are rigorous because they are intended to challenge students at the AP Exam level. Moreover, they are designed to give students frequent experience with the types of multiple-choice questions, free-response questions, and document-based questions that appear on the AP Exam. Frequent exams also ensure that students read the textbook and supplementary readings, consistently check for understanding, and take copious notes that are thorough and well organized.

VIII. Supplemental Materials

Extra readings from:

Weisner, Merry E., Julius R. Ruff and William Bruce Wheeler. Discovering the Western Past: A Look at the Evidence. 3rd ed. 2 vols. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997.