



COVINGTON LATIN SCHOOL

Achieve here. Excel here. Belong here.

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS HISTORY I

Textbook:

Lockard, Craig A. *World*. Wadsworth/Cengage: Boston, 2011.

Prerequisites:

Acceptance into the freshman year at Covington Latin School

Course Description:

In this course, we will explore the Pre-Modern World. As we learn how to be historians and to understand evidence from the distant past, we will study approximately 4,500 years of history, from the birth of Civilizations to A.D. 1500.

Course Goals:

- To learn how to read a map
- To develop outline-style note-taking skills with assigned readings
- To create or complete study guides
- To write a research paper using various types of sources
- To understand the ancient cultures from which we have developed
- To apply our knowledge of history to the contemporary world

Course Objectives:

- To improve note-taking and study skills
- To practice analyzing primary historical documents
- To research and write papers and complete projects for Ancient and Medieval Days

Course Sequence:

Quarter 1

Unit 1: The Origins of Human Societies

- The Origins of Human Societies to ca. 2000 B.C.

Unit 2: First Civilizations in Mesopotamia, Africa, and the Eastern Mediterranean

- Ancient Societies in Mesopotamia: Sumerians and Babylonians
- Ancient Societies in Africa: Egyptians and sub-Saharan Africa
- Ancient Societies in the Eastern Mediterranean: Palestine and Phoenicia

Unit 3: First Civilizations in China, India, and the Americas

- The Formation of Chinese Society; Xia, Shang, and Zhou Dynasties
- Harappan Society, Aryan Peoples, Indo-Aryan Synthesis
- The Roots of Settlement in the Americas
- Early Societies in the Americas
- Local Evidence for Mound Builders (Ohio River Valley)

Quarter 2

Unit 4: Persians and Greeks

- Earliest Civilizations in Greece: Minoans and Mycenaeans
- The Persians and Their Empire
- The World of Greek City-States
- Wars of the 5th century B.C.
- The Hellenistic Age

Unit 5: The Rise of Rome and Early Christianity

- The Rise and Reign of Rome
- Roman Life, Rivals, and Decline
- Christianity: From Local Sect to Transregional Religion

Semester Exam

Quarter 3

Unit 6: Chinese Empires and Mongols

- China and Axial-Age Thought
- Han China
- Buddhism
- Tang China and Song China
- Mongol Conquest

Unit 7: Classical Societies in India and Empires of the Americas

- The Origins of Hinduism
- The Mauryan Empire and Post-Mauryan Asia
- The Gupta Age in India
- Hinduism and Buddhism in Indian Society
- Classical Mesoamerican Societies and Networks
- New Societies of South and North America
- The Aztec Empire and the Inca Imperial System

Unit 8: Classical Societies and Networks in Africa

- Kingdom of Kush and Aksum Empire
- Sudanic Societies and Bantu Migrations

Quarter 4

Unit 9: The Rise of the Islamic World

- Early Islam
- Arab Expansion and Islamic Empires
- Islamic Theology, Society, and Science

Unit 10: Christian Societies in Medieval Europe, Byzantium, and Russia

- Forming Christian Societies in Western Europe
- Medieval Societies, Power, and Thought
- Eastern Europe: Byzantines, Slavs, and Mongols
- Late Medieval Europe and the Roots of Expansion

Final Exam

Evaluation:

Reading assignments, papers, projects, tests, reading quizzes, map quizzes

Supplemental Materials:

In-class primary source activities, maps, videos for Ancient Day and Medieval Day