

**Course Information:**

This course is designed to provide you with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and significant issues in world history. The class also prepares you for college level work, by making demands on you equivalent to those of most introductory, seminar style college courses. The historic period studied in this class will span the entire recorded history of the world from the Neolithic Revolution up to the present day.

**Goals of this program**

1. To acquire **knowledge** and understanding of the major political, social, economic, and cultural developments in World history, from Neolithic times to the present.
2. To develop the discussion, writing, and research **skills** necessary for college-level study.
3. To train students to effectively **discuss** a point of view, in oral or written form, and to **evaluate** others' points of view.
4. To **prepare** students for the national **A. P. Examination** in World History. It will also be necessary to take the New York State **Regents Exam** in Global Studies

The **Advanced Placement Exam** is a national, standardized exam given each May by the College Board. You will take the exam in May of 2012. The test is three hours long and consists of 70 multiple choice questions and three essays. You will receive your exam grades the summer after you take the exam. Your exam grade can be submitted to participating colleges for college credit and/or advanced placement. The exam is graded on a scale of 1-5.

5- extremely well qualified  
4- well qualified  
3- qualified

2- possibly qualified  
1- no recommendation

The exam will cover ALL of world history (~8000 BCE to the present). We will begin this year with the major political Revolutions of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. While the focus of tenth grade World History will be on the last three centuries, we will review the ninth grade material in April, and will try to cover any missed topics at that time.

It also is advised that you purchase a review book as soon as possible. The book that is most preferred by the students is the one put out by Princeton Review. You can also download a pdf guide to the AP exam by going on to the College Board web site. In this guide, there are sample test questions, and a course outline.

**Text to be used in this class:**

- Bentley & Ziegler, *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*, Third Edition, 2007

### How is the class grade determined?

<b>Exams</b>	40%	In the course of a marking period, there will be on average one multiple choice and one or two essay exams
<b>Quizzes</b>	40%	Quizzes, which are given on a regular basis, are almost always based on reading assignments from the text. You can take notes on all reading assignments, and use those notes during the quiz. Each quiz will be a test of your comprehension of the previous night's reading assignment. You can make use of your notes when taking the quiz. You will be excused if you miss a reading quiz due to an excused absence (as long as the number of absences is minimal). You will still be expected to know the material, and should always make a point to get the notes from a classmate.
<b>Projects</b>	10%	On average, there will be one major project for each marking period. Projects anticipated for the fall of 2010 will include the book report, a French Revolution simulation, and a symposium on the Industrial Revolution.
<b>Participation</b>	10%	Discussion and engagement in class activities will be an important part of most classes. Simply being a big talker won't necessarily garner high marks. Most important is the content and quality of what is said!

#### Note taking:

While notes will be taken during class, the bulk of your notes will come from reading assignments. You will be expected to take notes on all reading assignments in this class.

You will be allowed to use notes from the reading for most quizzes given at the start of the period. Every once in a while, you will not be able to have access to your notes, but the nature of the questions will not be specific, and will test you on your general understanding of the reading.

You can **not** use your text for quizzes. It is best to leave the book at home!! There will always be books available in Room 119 for loan if you want to do any of your work at school.

Periodically, you can expect your notes will be checked. All notes should be dated with headings, and organized by date. All the notes for the semester should be accessible for all classes. It is recommended that you keep your notes organized in a loose-leaf notebook, but as long as you keep your notes organized, you can keep your notes as you see fit.

You will only be able to use your own notes. While it will be difficult to monitor whether you are all sharing your notes via email, it is only in your best interest that you read the text on your own, and take your own notes.

#### Key Topics:

Fall '11 : early colonization of the Americas and Africa, Revolutions in Americas and France, the Industrial Revolution, World War I

Spring '12: decolonization, worldwide Depression, World War II, the Cold War, globalization, review

**Website:**

Class resources are available on the web. You can check assignments, resources, and useful links that will assist you with research tasks associated with the class.

The url for this site is <http://www.thomania.org/school>

**Teacher's obligation:**

I (Mr. Thoman) will do my best to prepare you for the A.P. exam. I will also make an extra effort to make the material both relevant and interesting. If you feel that I am a tough grader, that is only because I want you to be as best prepared for the rigors of the A.P. exam as possible.

**Any further questions or problems:**

Please seek me out if you need assistance or have any questions regarding the class. I will be free designated periods during the day, and after school on certain days. You are always free to contact me via e-mail at [tonythoman@optonline.net](mailto:tonythoman@optonline.net) I check my e-mail every evening. If you are absent, and have questions, feel free to contact me online.

**AGREEMENT:**

- All school wide rules will be enforced in this class.
- Every student wants to be in a class where he or she feels comfortable, and in a learning environment that is supportive Therefore, no disrespectful behavior toward a fellow student or the teacher will be tolerated.  
For example, there is to be no interrupting the teacher or fellow student, use of any inappropriate language, or display of any other action that disrupts the learning environment for the rest of the class.
- Should any student feel upset about anything in the class, whether the problem stems from the teacher or another student, it is best if the matter is discussed quietly with Mr. Thoman. Every effort will be made by the Mr. Thoman to insure that each student in the class is listened to, and feels comfortable with the class environment.
- It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with the workload if absent. It is essential that the student meet with Mr. Thoman to discuss missed work on return from any kind of absence. Mr. Thoman will do everything possible to bring the student up to date, and will give the student a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.
- No cell phone or any other kind of communication devices are to be seen in class. Any kind of text messaging conducted during class is not only disrespectful toward the teacher, but will be reflected in the participation grade. After an initial warning, points will be systematically deducted from the participation grade each time texting is noticed by Mr. Thoman.
- Should there be any serious behavioral issues or academic deficiencies, Mr. Thoman will be sure to make the parent aware of the situation, and try to work with the parent and the student to rectify the problem.

Please feel free to talk with me should you need help with homework, or have any concerns with this class. Tuesday , 8<sup>th</sup> period, is the designated tutoring day for AP World.

I agree to the terms as stated in the class agreement.

x \_\_\_\_\_ (signature of student)

Dear parent: Please read the course requirements and agreement, so you are aware of what your son or daughter will be encounter in this class.

If you have any concerns or comments, don't hesitate to contact me. Feel free to include any comments below. You may also include an email address or day time phone #, so I can contact you during the school day if necessary.

x \_\_\_\_\_ (signature of parent)