Welcome to AP World History, Semesters 1 & 2

This course is meticulously designed to align with state standards and targeted learning objectives, ensuring comprehensive coverage of essential knowledge and skills required for student success.

Course Description:
Embark on a global journey through time in this self-paced advanced placement course. Explore the diverse cultures, civilizations, and historical events that have shaped our world. From the rise and fall of empires to transformative social, economic, and political changes, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of humanity's shared past.

The course covers key historical themes and regions, from the ancient world through the modern era, analyzing global interconnections and the lasting impacts of historical developments. Students will engage with primary and secondary sources, develop critical thinking skills, and prepare for the AP World History exam.

Units and Learning Outcomes
Semester 1:
Unit 1: The Global Tapestry – Foundations of Civilization

- Study the emergence of early human societies and the development of agriculture.
- Explore the rise of the first major civilizations, such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, and China.
- Examine the social, political, and cultural systems of early civilizations, including religion, writing systems, and technology.
- Analyze the role of trade and cultural diffusion in shaping early world connections.

Unit 2: The Classical Age – Empires and Expansion

- Investigate the rise and fall of major classical empires, including Greece, Rome, China's Han Dynasty, and India's Maurya and Gupta Empires.
- Study the spread of philosophies, religions, and cultural practices, such as Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Greco-Roman thought.
- Examine the effects of empire-building on social hierarchies, economic systems, and political structures.
- Analyze the causes and consequences of the decline of classical empires.

Unit 3: Post-Classical World – Trade, Islam, and New Societies

- Examine the rise of Islam and its impact on world history, including the spread of culture and ideas.
- Study the growth of major trade routes like the Silk Roads, Indian Ocean, and Trans-Saharan trade.
- Explore the rise of new empires, such as the Byzantine Empire, the Mongols, and the development of feudal systems in Europe and Japan.
- Analyze the social, political, and cultural changes during the medieval period in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Unit 4: The Early Modern World – Renaissance, Reformation, and Exploration

- Investigate the Renaissance and Reformation in Europe and their global influence.
- Study the Age of Exploration, including the voyages of Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and others, and the resulting exchange of goods, people, and ideas.
- Examine the rise of powerful nation-states in Europe and the early impacts of European colonization and imperialism.
- Analyze the economic, social, and political changes in Europe and the Americas during this transformative period.

Semester 2:

Unit 5: The Age of Revolution – Political and Social Change

- Study the causes and effects of the Atlantic Revolutions, including the American, French, Haitian, and Latin American revolutions.
- Examine the philosophical ideas of the Enlightenment and how they influenced political change.
- Analyze the social, political, and economic outcomes of the revolutions on both the Old World and the New World.
- Explore the rise of nationalism and the transformation of political systems across the globe.

Unit 6: The Industrial Revolution and Global Change

- Investigate the causes and effects of the Industrial Revolution in Britain, its spread to other parts of the world, and its impact on society, technology, and the environment.
- Study the growth of industrial capitalism and the development of new economic systems like socialism and capitalism.
- Examine the global impacts of industrialization, including urbanization, labor movements, and the rise of imperialism.
- Analyze the social consequences of industrialization, including changes in class structures and gender roles.

Unit 7: The Age of Imperialism and Global Conflicts

- Study the causes and effects of imperialism and colonialism in Africa, Asia, and the Americas.
- Analyze the social, political, and economic consequences of European imperialism and its legacy in the modern world.
- Examine the causes and major events of World War I, including nationalism, militarism, and the system of alliances.
- Study the consequences of World War I, including the Treaty of Versailles, the rise of totalitarian regimes, and the global economic depression.

Unit 8: World War II and the Cold War

- Investigate the causes and key events of World War II, including the rise of fascism, the Holocaust, and the involvement of major powers.
- Study the global impact of World War II, including the creation of the United Nations and the beginning of the Cold War.
- Analyze the ideological, political, and military conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union.
- Examine the effects of the Cold War on global politics, including the Korean War, Vietnam War, and decolonization movements in Africa and Asia.

Unit 9: Globalization and Contemporary Issues

- Study the forces of globalization, including economic interdependence, cultural exchange, and technological advancements.
- Analyze the social, economic, and political effects of globalization on developed and developing nations.
- Investigate the challenges of the modern world, including environmental issues, terrorism, human rights, and the rise of international organizations.
- Examine the impact of recent historical events, such as the fall of the Soviet Union, the rise of China, and the ongoing challenges of the 21st century.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and evaluate key historical events, figures, and themes from around the world.
- Understand the interconnectedness of global history and how cultures, civilizations, and empires have influenced one another.
- Synthesize information from primary and secondary sources to develop evidence-based arguments.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the major social, political, economic, and cultural transformations throughout history.
- Prepare for the AP World History exam with a comprehensive knowledge of world history and historical analysis skills.

Conclusion:
AP World History is a self-paced, advanced course that immerses students in the vast and complex history of the world. Through in-depth analysis of key events, people, and movements, students will develop critical thinking, research, and writing skills that are essential for success in the AP exam.

This course not only prepares students for the AP exam but also encourages a broader understanding of the global forces that have shaped our world, fostering a deeper appreciation for humanity's shared history and the complexities of the modern era.