Welcome to 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:
World History explores the key events, ideas, and cultures that have shaped human civilization from ancient times to the present day. This self-paced course allows students to analyze the historical developments that have influenced political, social, economic, and cultural systems worldwide. By studying the rise and fall of civilizations, global conflicts, and transformative movements, students will gain a deeper understanding of how past events continue to shape the modern world.

Semester 1: Ancient Civilizations to the Middle Ages

- **Unit 1: Early Human Societies and the Rise of Civilizations**

Examine the emergence of early human societies, including hunter-gatherer cultures, the Agricultural Revolution, and the birth of the first civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China. Explore the development of writing, law, religion, and early forms of government.

- **Unit 2: Ancient Greece and Rome**

Study the political, philosophical, and cultural contributions of Ancient Greece and Rome. Analyze the concept of democracy, the development of the Roman Empire, and the impact of Greek and Roman philosophy, art, and governance on Western civilization.

- **Unit 3: The Middle Ages**

Investigate the fall of the Roman Empire, the rise of medieval kingdoms, and the role of the Catholic Church in European life. Explore the social, political, and economic structures of feudalism, and study key events such as the Crusades, the Black Death, and the Hundred Years' War.

- **Unit 4: Global Connections in the Early Modern World**

Analyze the rise of global trade, exploration, and cultural exchange during the Renaissance, the Age of Exploration, and the early colonial era. Study the interactions between Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas, and the impact of these exchanges on world history.

Learning Outcomes - Semester 1:

- Understand the early development of human societies and the formation of ancient civilizations.
- Analyze the political, cultural, and philosophical contributions of Ancient Greece and Rome.
- Examine the structure and challenges of medieval society and the rise of global connections during the Renaissance and Age of Exploration.

Semester 2: The Early Modern Period to the Present

- **Unit 5: The Age of Revolutions**

Study the political, social, and economic revolutions of the 17th and 18th centuries, including the English Civil War, the American Revolution, and the French Revolution. Explore the rise of new political ideologies, including liberalism, nationalism, and socialism.

- **Unit 6: The Industrial Revolution and Imperialism**

Investigate the technological advancements and economic transformations of the Industrial Revolution. Analyze the effects of industrialization on global economies and the expansion of European imperialism in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

- **Unit 7: World Wars and the Interwar Period**

Examine the causes, events, and consequences of World War I and World War II. Study the rise of totalitarian regimes, the impact of the Great Depression, and the shifting global power dynamics during the interwar years. Analyze the global conflicts that defined the 20th century.

- **Unit 8: The Cold War and Contemporary Global Issues**

Explore the ideological, political, and military struggles of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. Study the key events of the Cold War era, including the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Investigate contemporary global challenges such as terrorism, climate change, and globalization.

Learning Outcomes - Semester 2:

- Understand the causes and effects of political revolutions in the modern era.
- Analyze the social, economic, and political impact of the Industrial Revolution and imperialism.
- Examine the causes and consequences of the World Wars and the Cold War.
- Gain insight into contemporary global issues and the continuing impact of historical events.

Conclusion:

World History is a self-paced, independent course that provides students with a broad understanding of human history from the earliest civilizations to modern times. Through the exploration of key historical events, cultural developments, and global transformations, students will gain critical insights into how past events have shaped the present world. This course encourages students to think critically about the forces that have shaped human societies and prepares them to engage with the complexities of the modern global landscape.