

## **Belchertown High School - Honors Modern World History - Room 309 - Ms. Captein - 2008-2009**

**Description:** Honors Modern World History is an accelerated, in depth course designed for students who welcome challenges. Throughout the year, academic excellence and responsible citizenship will be both fostered and expected. By studying history, you will learn more about the world, helping you become a more productive contributor to society. During the course of the year, we will review major topics in ancient world history, but we will focus on world history from the age of the absolute monarchs through the present day.

### **Benefits:** You will:

- Develop reading, writing, and speaking skills
- Participate in activities that encourage leadership
- Use critical & creative thinking strategies to develop reasoning & problem solving skills
- Acquire, process, and utilize information from a variety of resources, including the internet
- Study the chronological order of events and recognize cause and effect in history.
- Realize that people are affected by their environment, background, and era.
- Recognize the importance of individuals.
- Discuss current events
- Understand and exercise your rights and responsibilities as citizens
- Appreciate subject matter across the curriculum

### **Textbooks:** *World History: Connections to Today: The Modern Era* (Prentice Hall)

*World History: The Human Odyssey* (West Educational Publishing)

*Sources in World History: Volume II* (Thomson - Wadsworth)

- Please note that there will also be additional readings

### **Materials needed:**

- Binder with paper (you can have multiple subjects in the same binder)
- Pen and or pencil
- Covered book (you will *not* need to bring your textbook to class on a daily basis)

### **The Study Guide:**

- You will receive a study guide for every chapter.
- You will need your study guide to do your homework.
- You need to keep your study guide in a safe place; **I do not hand out replacement study guides.**

### **Major Tests:**

- Midterm Exam: Taken in January, it covers the material studied in the first half of the year.
- Final Exam: Taken in June, it covers the material studied in the second half of the year.
- The final exam grade on your report card is the average of the midterm and final exam scores.

### **Extra Help:**

If you ever need any extra help, please see me before school, during my directed study hall: \_\_\_\_\_, or after school (by appointment).

### **Benefits of Doing YOUR best:**

- Pride, Confidence, Reference / Recommendation letters, Oriole VIP, and the Honor Roll

## Assessment and Grading System:

20% Assignments (Study Guide and other assignments)

- Generally, but not always, due every other day. Often, homework assignments are simply checked.
- Homework is **not accepted late unless you have an excused absence**
- Homework assignments are graded as follows:

5 = All questions answered / brief, correct answers that include supporting details

4 = All questions answered / brief, but mostly correct, answers that include a few basic supporting details

3 = Incomplete (about half of the questions are answered OR all are answered, but without basic details)

2 = Incomplete (approximately a quarter of the questions are answered)

1 = Incomplete (a few questions are answered)

NOTE: Often, we will go over homework in class. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure your homework answers are correct.

70% Assessments - including tests, quizzes, and projects

- Quizzes are like short tests / they focus on a particular section of homework
- You will have a test once every two or three weeks.
- You will have a major reading, writing or presentation project due every 5 weeks.

10% Participation (in accordance to the school's mission statement and expectations)