AP European History

Advanced Placement European History is an elective offered through the Social Science Department. It is a demanding course whose emphasis goes beyond the memorization of facts to the interpretation and analysis of historical data, writings, art and music.

AP European History is a one-year college course that examines varied political, intellectual, and socio-economic themes. The course of study is designed to familiarize students with the interrelationships of these themes through several chronological periods. And because the entire chronological scope of European history from the High Renaissance through the 1980's is reflected in the AP exam, we will pay careful attention to each century within this framework.

The course highlights the impact of geography, culture, trade, religion and technology during selected historical periods.

AP courses in the Social Sciences cover a greater breadth of factual information and are heavily geared towards research methodology and analysis.

Students may find that the amount of time necessary to do the reading and to perform well on tests, essays and other assignments can become overwhelming. Pace yourself carefully. Always try to enjoy the class and not worry too much about grades. Enter this class because you wish to be challenged and you wish to learn. The grade you work for, you will earn both in this course and on the AP exam.

This course is designed to prepare the student to take the Advanced Placement Examination in European History administered in May of each year. Some colleges and universities grant five semester credits to students who pass the exam; other institutions use this score for placement in honors or other advanced programs.

Careful consideration should be given to course selection. Take in to account your interests, other courses and the time required for these courses and extra-curricular activities. Once the decision has been made to attempt an AP course, it may not be feasible to transfer out of the course later in the semester.

Additional information about AP European History can be found at:

http://www.collegeboard.com

Text Book: All AP European History courses in the SDUHSD use the same text book.


Summary.

• 1500 to present in European History
• Rise and change of political, social, economic and religious institutions in Western Europe from the Medieval period to present
• Intellectual and cultural history
• Diplomatic history
• Technological innovation and impact on European peoples and institutions
• Interaction and impact of Western Europe on the non-western world.
• Causes of and analysis of major conflicts in Western Europe and the impact of these events on the non-western world.

Homework:

• Homework includes both guided and independent practice with heavy emphasis on independent practice.
• Homework assignments average 2 hours per class period.
• Homework typically includes: reading, defining key terms and/or people, answering questions for understanding, research and synthesis of ideas.

Projects:

Projects are both major and minor in scope.

**Major Project** will include research into primary and secondary documents and will typically be assigned 2 - 6 weeks before the due date. Examples might include yet are not limited to the following types of projects:

1. Group reports on sensitive time periods
2. Comparative Revolutions
3. Debates
4. Trials
5. Popular Culture
6. Individual presentations on important individuals

**Minor Project** typically requires one to three days of preparation, and may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Short research presentations
2. Simulations
3. Text based group projects

Exams/Quizzes/Essays:

• Exams, quizzes and essays in AP European History are designed to enable students to meet graduation requirements and to prepare them for the AP European History Examination offered by the Educational Testing Service in the spring of each year.
During the course of a semester a student can expect to take 4-6 chapter/unit exams plus a midterm. A final exam completes the course at the end of semester 2.

- Exams typically contain a series of multiple choice, short answer, true and false type questions. Depending on the chapter or length of unit being studied the exam may entail 30-60 questions.
- Quizzes are similar to exams but usually cover only portions of a chapter/unit. A student can expect to take 3-4 in the course of a semester.
- **Sample DBQ prompt**: Analyze the views of those addressing the issue of slavery during the Enlightenment and the French Revolution and explain how those who debated this issue thought its resolution would affect the economic, political, and social order.
- **Sample Free Response prompt**: Explain the ways in which Italian Renaissance humanism transformed ideas about the individual’s role in society.

**Grades:**

Teachers employ variations of either the weighted or cumulative method for determining grades. While some teachers may emphasize different areas the following scale is used to determine the final grade:

- 100 - 90 = A
- 89 - 80 = B
- 79 - 70 = C
- 69 - 60 = D
- 59 and below = F

**Extra Credit:**

Extra credit assignments are left to individual teacher discretion. Extra credit is looked upon as extended learning not a substitute for missed or make-up work.

**Expectations and Guidelines:**

AP European History is an introductory college freshman course. Students are expected to come to class prepared on a daily basis and abide by all classroom and school rules. Students who miss work due to an excused absence are expected to arrange make up work with their teachers in a timely fashion.

- Has strong interest/passion for curricular area--history, sociology, politics, etc.
- Primary interests lie in curricular-related careers – business, law, academia, literature, government.
- Reading, comprehension and writing proficiency above grade level – at least 11th grade or above.
- Able to make complex connections between events and across time often without assistance.
- Enjoys the challenge of complex, critical thinking problems.
- Possesses the ability to formulate complex and critical inquiry based on reading of various sources.
- Reads a wide variety of material for pleasure and enjoys discussing current events, history and literature.
- Well developed communication skills.
- Students must be prepared to complete **Required Summer Assignment** prior to first day of school.