

Honors: World History since the Renaissance

World History since the Renaissance covers the development of civilizations around the world from the Renaissance to the present. The course covers major themes in world history, including the development and influence of human-geographic relationships, political and social structures, economic systems, major religions and belief systems, the effects of science and technology, the vital role of the arts, and the importance of trade and cultural exchange. Topics covered in this course include the Reformation and its legacy, the Scientific Revolution, European exploration, the Enlightenment, political revolutions, the rise of nation-states, the industrial era, the spread of imperialism, and the issues and conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries. Primary source documents, which appear frequently, encourage students to make connections to evidence from the past. A significant focus of this course is student writing. Students develop confidence in their analytic writing through a sequence of five-paragraph essays and analytic pieces, including document-based questions. Additionally, in a series of web explorations, students use the Internet to gather information for creative writing assignments. The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.