



World Civilizations and Cultures

Instructor	Annie Ward	Phone:	(512) 842-9222
Office	Blanco River Academy Classroom	E-mail:	ward@blancoriveracademy.org
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday before school or by appointment		

"We are all tattooed in our cradles with the beliefs of our tribe; the record may seem superficial, but it is indelible." - Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

Description:

This course is a yearlong study of the geographic, cultural, political, historical and economic forces that shape civilizations and cultures with an emphasis on the beginnings of ancient civilizations.

Goals:

1. To understand the historical impact of people and events that shaped ancient civilizations.
2. To understand the governments and economies of other civilizations.
3. To have a thorough understanding of world geography.
4. To correlate ancient history to the modern world.
5. To form a foundation of a lifelong skill of historical analysis.
6. To create a classroom of students who are inspired and motivated to participate in our country as educated citizens.

Expectations:

1. Each student is responsible for coming to class prepared. This includes having their reading material, homework, writing utensils, appropriate technology, or any other item ready and accessible at the beginning of class. Assignments are expected at the beginning of class. One letter grade will be taken off an assignment for every class period it is late. For example, if a paper is due Tuesday but is turned in the next class period, Thursday, the highest grade that paper will receive is 89. The following Tuesday will be 79, and so forth.
2. Assignments are expected to be complete and meet all requirements. The student will have two choices if I look at an assignment when it is turned in and see that it does not meet the requirements. The first choice is to turn in the assignment as is and receive the grade it deserves. The second choice is to re-do the assignment but lose a letter grade. If the student decides to re-do the assignment, it is due the following class period.
3. Each student is expected to come to class ready to participate in the Three R's - Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Reasonable. We will all hold one another accountable to these three expectations in order to have a successful, fun and productive learning atmosphere.

Technology:

Part of coming prepared for class means not having inappropriate technology out during instructional time. Cell phones, tablets, and iPods are to be kept in backpacks or in cubbies unless they are being used for a special purpose, i.e. in a presentation or when allowed to listen to music. Students will have an opportunity to check their phone during breaks and during lunch. Students may only use computers during class when it is necessary for the lesson. The student may only have applications and websites open that are necessary and applicable for the lesson. Cell phones seen during class will be collected and kept on the desk until the end of that class period. Students misusing laptops during class will be asked to close their laptop and share with a neighbor until the end of the class period. Additionally, teachers have the authority to check at any time for misuse of iMessage during class. If unapproved communication is seen during class time, points will be taken away from the participation grade. Continual

misuse of technology will result in contacting the parents and a student unable to use abused technology for the remainder of the day.

Evaluation:

1. Daily Work - 10%
2. Participation - 10%
3. Quizzes - 20%
4. Projects/Papers - 30%
5. Tests - 30%

Participation:

Each student will begin each quarter with 100 points for their participation grade. As the quarter continues, points will be taken away for lack of participation, coming to class unprepared, or behavioral issues.

Course Schedule:

Unit	Summary
First Quarter	
Introduction — Geography and Pre-history	A brief study of pre-historic culture and basic World Geography
Mesopotamia	The study of the Fertile Crescent and the beginning of civilization.
Ancient Egyptians	Review of Ancient Egypt and the study of modern Egypt to understand the connection from ancient civilization to modern culture.
Persian Empire	The most understudied of the ancient civilizations, we will not only study the history and the role of the Persians now, but also why so many don't study this civilization.
Second Quarter	
Ancient India	The civilization that began around the Indus River valley, and the beginnings of Hinduism.
Ancient China	With an emphasis around the Dynastic Cycle and the Mandate of Heaven. Also, the influence of China as the main power in the Ancient Far East.
Ancient Greece	Review of Ancient Greece and the study of modern Greece to understand the connection from ancient civilization to modern culture.
Third Quarter	
Kush and African Culture	The beginnings of large scale cities and infrastructure in Africa.
Roman Empire	Review of Ancient Rome and the study of the modern Mediterranean area to understand the connection from ancient civilization to modern culture.
Byzantine Empire	Studying the connection between the two Roman Empires, and how they culturally influenced different parts of the world because of location.
Fourth Quarter	
Medieval Period	How the fall of the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire and the beginnings of Islam shaped this time period. Why this was the armpit of the world.
Central and South American Empires	Study of the Aztec, Mayan and Incan Empires
North American and Texan Culture	The study of Native American Culture and History as well as how that history shaped the country and state we live in.