



School District of Marshfield

Course Syllabus

Course Name: World Studies
Length of Course: Year
Credits: 1
Grade Level: Junior Standing

Course Description:

Changing Worlds first semester primarily explores European history from the Middle Ages through World War II and post-war Europe focusing on historical events influencing and shaping cultural development, political and economic systems, natural resources, and social and ethnic divisions and empowerments. Second semester is a regionally-based course devoted to six regions in the world: Great Britain, Russia, China, Nigeria, Mexico, and Iran. Each country is a representative of the region in which it is located, and therefore is only a vehicle for understanding the historical and current events which have shaped and are affecting human geography there. Emphasis is placed on current events, while using history as an understanding of causality for these events. As such, current news can change the content quickly so as to keep students as abreast of world events as possible, all the while relating it to how those events affect them as global citizens.

Skill Targets:

- Analyze and interpret primary and secondary resource documents. **(Primary Sources)**
- Compose critically written responses demonstrating higher level thinking. **(Writing)**
- Interpret visual sources. **(Visual Sources)**

First Quarter (9 Weeks)

1. Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation (18 days)

Learning Targets:

- A. Students will be able to summarize the cause, structure, and effects of feudalism.
- B. Students will be able to describe the church's structure, influence, and power.
- C. Summarize the causes of the Crusades and analyze the effects of the Crusades.
- D. Explain the conditions in Italy that gave rise to the Renaissance.
- E. Identify values and ideas prized during the Renaissance.

- F. Describe the artistic breakthrough and achievements of Renaissance artists.
- G. Summarize influential literary works and techniques of key Renaissance writers.
- H. Explain how printing spread Renaissance ideas.
- I. Analyze historical forces and religious issues that sparked the Reformation.
- J. Trace Martin Luther's role in the religious movement to reform the Roman Catholic
- K. Church and his impact on European history
- L. Explain the spread of the Protestant faith to England during King Henry VIII's reign and his heirs
- M. Explain John Calvin's Protestant teachings and their spread throughout northern and western Europe.
- N. Trace the reforms within the Catholic Church.

2. Absolutism and Scientific Revolution & Enlightenment (18 days)

Learning Targets:

- A. Explain the origin and reasoning behind absolutism.
- B. Understand why absolutism failed to develop in England
- C. Describe the Thirty Years' War, its causes and outcomes.
- D. Describe the development of absolute Spanish power.
- E. Explain weaknesses in the Spanish Empire.
- F. Characterize differences between Russia and Western Europe and the emerging role of Peter the Great.
- G. Describe Peter's reforms and their impact on Russia.
- H. Describe religious and political conflicts in France.
- I. Explain Louis XIV's policies and how he mastered the art of absolutism.
- J. List circumstances that led to the Scientific Revolution.
- K. Summarize the development of the heliocentric theory and explain why it led to conflict
- L. Describe the scientific/technological and philosophical/religious effects of inventions.
- M. Compare and contrast political theorists' views on government.
- N. List important Enlightenment philosophers and concepts.
- O. Explain the impact of the Enlightenment on Western civilization.

Second Quarter (9 Weeks)

3. French Revolution and Napoleon (10 days)

Learning Targets:

- A. Summarize the factors that led to the French Revolution.
- B. Describe the revolutionary cycle as it pertains to the French Revolutionary.
- C. Analyze the Reign of Terror. (What/Cause/ST Effects/LT Effects)
- D. Evaluate Napoleon's foreign and domestic policies.
- E. Summarize the results of the Congress of Vienna.

- F. Explain how the ideas of the French Revolution continued to influence people and political change in Europe.

4. Industrialization, Imperialism, and Rise of Nations (18 days)

Learning Targets:

- A. Identify the causes for the Industrial Revolution
- B. Describe major inventions and evaluate their impact on society and international relations.
- C. Explain the demographic changes and social tensions that emerged.
- D. Understand the political and economic philosophies that started during this era.
- E. Analyze European motivation for imperialism.
- F. Identify European global destinations.
- G. Evaluate the complex relationship between European conquerors and the indigenous people.
- H. Explain reasons for and challenges to nationalism in Russia, Austria, Germany, and Italy.

5. World War I and Interwar Period (8 days)

Learning Targets:

- A. Explain how nationalism, imperialism, militarism, and the alliance system led to WWI.

Third Quarter (9 Weeks)

8. Russia (15 days)

Learning Targets:

- A. Understand how the history of tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union contributed to the difficult beginnings of the new Russian Republic with its transitions to a democracy and market capitalist economy.
- B. Analyze the historical events which shaped the modern Russian political system.
- C. Describe early Russian cultural development.
- D. Analyze the key turning points in Russian politics including the rise of Gorbechev, the fall of Communism, and the policies of Yeltsin and Putin.
- E. Evaluate the impact globalization has had on Russia.
- F. Evaluate the efficacy of Russian domestic and foreign policies.
- G. Analyze how similarities and differences have impacted current relations between the U.S. and Russia.

9. China (15 days)

Learning Targets:

- A. Students will understand the evolution of the economic, political, and societal structures which comprise the modern Chinese nation.
- B. Analyze the historical events which shaped the modern Chinese political system.
- C. Describe the components and functions of the Chinese political system and evaluate their effectiveness.
- D. Evaluate the impact globalization has had on China.
- E. Evaluate the efficacy of Chinese policy regarding domestic and foreign policies.
- F. Analyze how similarities and differences in political systems have impacted current relations between the U.S. and China.

10. Nigeria (15 days)

Learning Targets:

- A. Understand the basic elements of Nigerian government, economics, culture and demographics while analyzing some of the vexing challenges that 3rd world countries encounter.
- B. Analyze the historical events which shaped modern Nigerian politics.
- C. Describe the major policy objectives of the several Nigerian political parties.
- D. Describe major turning points in Nigerian politics.
- E. Evaluate the impact globalization has had on Nigeria.
- F. Evaluate the efficacy of Nigerian policy regarding domestic and foreign policies.
- G. Analyze how similarities and differences have impacted current relations between the U.S. and Nigeria.

Fourth Quarter (9 Weeks)

11. Mexico and other Latin American Countries (15 days)

Learning Targets:

- H. Students will understand the evolution of the economic, political, and societal structures which comprise the modern Mexican nation.
- I. Analyze the historical events which shaped the modern Mexican political system.
- J. Evaluate the impact globalization has had on Mexico.
- K. Evaluate the efficacy of Mexican policy regarding domestic and foreign policies.
- L. Analyze how similarities and differences have impacted current relations between the U.S. and Mexico.

12. Iran and other Middle Eastern Countries (15 days)

Learning Targets:

- A. Understand the unique structure of the Iranian government, religious underpinnings, changing demographics, internal and external conflicts and the importance of Middle Eastern countries in context to other global governments
- B. Analyze the historical events which shaped the modern Iranian political system.
- C. Describe the components and functions of the Iranian theocracy and evaluate their effectiveness.
- D. Describe the major policy objectives of the Iranian leaders from 1979-2013.
- E. Evaluate the impact globalization has had on Iran.
- F. Evaluate the efficacy of Iranian policy regarding foreign and domestic policies.
- G. Analyze how similarities and differences have impacted current relations between the U.S. and Iran.

13. Student Research Project on Modern Country (10 days)

Required Core Resources:

- Patterns of Interaction, McDougall Littell, 2007.