OH010: AP World History

Course Description
AP World History is a two-semester course examining human history from prehistoric times to the present. The course follows a chronological and geographical order exploring economic, social, and political themes while also exploring themes like religious and philosophical beliefs, the environment and human interaction, and science and technology. During the course, we shall analyze these themes comparing and contrasting them with different peoples, cultures, and civilizations and considering if they changed or continued over time and geographical space. Throughout the process, students will deepen their knowledge of world history, analyze sources and historical accounts, and answer historical questions. They also will achieve a better understanding of world history and the world in which they live today.

Required Texts
Robert Tignor, et al.,

This Fleeting World: A Short History of Humanity,
David Christian,

The Origins of the Modern World: A Global & Ecological Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-first Century, 2nd edn.,
Robert B. Marks,

Course Objectives
• Developing a general narrative of world history
• Developing analytical skills related to human and natural events
• Developing interpretative frameworks of the past and present
• Analyzing primary and secondary materials, including texts, images, and artifacts
• Answering historical questions using primary sources and historical accounts.

Course Topics
• Prehistory and the Origins of Human Beings
• Foragers and Farmers, 10,000 – 4000 BCE
• Civilization: Rivers, Cities and the State, 4000 – 2000 BCE
• Nomads, Territorial States, and Microsocieties, 2000 – 1200 BCE
• First Empires and Common Cultures, 1200 – 350 BCE
• Han Dynasty China and Imperial Rome, 300 BCE – 300 CE
• Rise of Universal Religions, 300-600 CE: Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism
• Feudalism in Europe and Japan
• New Empires, Common Cultures, and the Rise of Islam, 600 – 1000
• Diversity and Uniformity in Islam, 1000 – 1300
• Contact, Commerce, and Colonization, 1450 – 1600
• Worlds Entangled, 1600 – 1750
• Reordering the World, 1750 – 1850
• Nations and Empires, 1850 – 1914
• The Modern World, 1910 – 1939
• The Three-World Order, 1940 – 1975
• Globalization, 1979 – 2000

Sample Assignments

Essay Assignment:
• Explain how the rise of cities represented greater complexity in human history. How did urban dwellers shape political, economic, and cultural developments in their region?

Research Paper or Project:
• You are required to write a research paper (about 5 pages) or do a research project (e.g., documentary or presentation about 10 to 15 minutes long) by the end of semester. You can choose any historical subject related to World History but you must discuss it with me first. Once we have agreed on the subject, you can move to the next stage of developing a thesis/argument/point of view and doing the research. I am available to assist you during this stage. We shall discuss organization or structure before you move to the final stage of writing your research paper or completing your research project.