

**Advanced Placement World History**  
**Brief Course Introduction and Statement of Understanding**  
**Mr. Gunty, Jurupa Valley High School**

**AP World History**

I am pleased that you have chosen to be part of Jurupa Valley High School's AP World History course. The course is designed to prepare students for the challenging Advanced Placement World History Exam, which is administered each May. A favorable performance on the exam is evidence of a solid understanding of World History, can be advantageous to college admissions, and may even earn the student college credit! All students enrolled in AP World History are expected to take the AP World History Exam. There is a cost associated with this exam. A waiver program exists for the exam for students who have qualified for free or reduced lunch. In order to adequately prepare students for the AP Exam, the course is rigorous and requires extensive effort on behalf of the student. By taking this course, students must understand that they are committing themselves to extensive reading and writing as well as frequent assessments and study sessions outside of the regularly scheduled class. A syllabus will be given to each student at the beginning of the school year with more specific course information.

**Summer Requirements**

Students enrolled in AP World History are required to complete the following prior to the first day of school. In addition, assessments will be given after school begins to test understanding of the summer assignments and introduce you to the nature of the course. The summer assignments and corresponding exams will weigh heavily on the first semester grade. Students who do not intend to complete the summer requirements should NOT be enrolled in the course!

Historical Fiction

All students are required to read the following two works of historical fiction prior to the first day of school:

-*Night* by Elie Wiesel

-*The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck

- It is recommended that students purchase personal copies of these books so they can make notes in them as they read. These can be found at any book store or online book retailer.
- These books may also be available for checkout through the JVHS Library (they will need to be returned soon after the school year begins).

In addition to reading the books, students must complete the following for each book:

- Character Identifications (Brief descriptions of each major character in the book)
- Vocabulary Definitions (A list of all the words you did not know, with definitions)
- A summary of the plot (approximately 1 page)
- A description of the setting (time period, location, etc...)
- A personal reaction to the book, including what you thought about it and why you think that it is significant (Why are you reading this book for a World History class?) (1 to 2 pages)

World History Text

All students are expected to read and outline the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of World Civilizations: The Global Experience 4<sup>th</sup> ed. by Stearns, Adas, Schwartz, and Gilbert. The text can be checked out from the JVHS library. A sample of the outline (Cornell Notes Style) has been provided.

The above assignments are due on the first day of school! Late work will receive no more than half-credit. Remember that plagiarism is cheating. If you copy your summaries or any other material from any source other than your own mind, it will receive no credit and it will be recommended that you be removed from the course.

A signed copy of the attached "Statement of Understanding" is due to me prior to the end of this school year! Feel free to contact me at [john\\_gunty@jusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:john_gunty@jusd.k12.ca.us) if you have any questions or concerns. I will do my best to check my email over the summer. Have a great summer!

Mr. Gunty

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ch. 1 Outline (*Outlines cannot be typed*)

From Human Prehistory to the Early Civilizations

*Charts, graphs, pictures, and inserts do not need to be outlined, but they are testable, so you should read them. Please complete the chapter through the end of “Global Connections”*

<p>- What happened to the other species of humans? (<i>After you finish the outline, write at least two questions per-page. The answers can NOT be right there in the text!</i>)</p> <p>- Did humans come to the Americas any other way than the land bridge?</p>	<p><i>Summarize Each Paragraph into a Sentence of Your Own Words</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Although humans have existed for a relatively short period of time, they have accomplished a great deal.</li><li>- Humans have some drawbacks, such as; aggressiveness, long infant-dependencies, and some health problems</li><li>- Humans also have some distinct advantages: opposable thumbs, High reproductivity, a diverse diet, detailed communications, and a distinctive brain. All of these have led many humans to see themselves as distinct from animals, and possibly linked to the divine</li><li>- For most of human history humans have lived simple lives, the <b>Paleolithic (Old Stone) Age</b> (Vocabulary words are highlighted)</li></ul> <p><i>Late Paleolithic Developments (Label Sub-topics)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Our species, <b>Homo Sapiens Sapiens</b>, has been around for about 120,000 years and appears to have out-survived other human-like species</li><li>- Most of human life was characterized by hunting and gathering, which takes more land, requires less frequent but harder work, and equality between the sexes</li><li>- Humans developed very different cultures and languages</li><li>- Humans have spread throughout the world from Africa, including to the Americas over a land bridge that disappeared by 8,000 B.C.E.</li><li>- About 14,000 years ago, the last ice-age ended, leading to increased tool use, animal domestication, and more frequent violence</li><li>- The <b>Neolithic (New Stone) Age</b>, had more developments, including; Agriculture, and cities. Civilization would end the Stone Ages</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary</u></p> <p><i>(At the end of each major topic, you must briefly summarize the Major Topic)</i></p> <p>Humans have only been around for a fraction of the Earth’s history, but they have evolved, spread, and developed throughout the world. Major changes began to occur after the last Ice Age.</p> <p><u>The Neolithic Revolution</u> (<i>Label Major Topics, and the subtopics within. Be sure to summarize at the end of each major topic</i>)</p> <p>You can finish the rest on your own. Good Luck and Happy Reading!</p>
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## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT WORLD HISTORY**

### **Statement of Understanding**

#### Student Statement

I understand that I am enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) World History. I understand that this course is academically rigorous and will require a tremendous commitment on my behalf. I will complete the summer requirements, which may require the purchase of materials. I will spend much of my own time studying for this course and I will attend mandatory study sessions outside of normal class times; possibly to include early mornings, afternoons, evenings, and weekends. I understand that there is a cost associated with this exam. The cost and/or waiver is my responsibility. I will take the AP World History Exam in May and I understand that my level of success on the exam is directly related to my success in this AP World History course.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent Statement

I have read the above statement. I understand that my child/student is enrolled in AP World History and that this is a rigorous course that requires a large commitment by them. I understand that my child/student must complete summer requirements, which may require the purchase of materials. I also understand that they may be required to attend study sessions outside of regular class periods. I understand that there is a cost associated with the AP World History exam (a waiver program, which reduces the cost, exists for students who have qualified for free or reduced lunch). I expect my child/student to take the AP World History Exam in May and I understand that their level of success on the exam is directly related to their success in this AP World History course.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_