Global Age

Course Description

This semester class presents the traditions of the great world cultures. The students will examine great world civilizations from the medieval times through the birth of the modern world. Topics to be studied include: feudalism, middle ages, city-states, empires, the nation-states, renaissance, the reformation, the development of trade networks, and the emergence of the global age . Emphasis will be placed on the historic, geographic, economic, political, and cultural contributions of this time period. This class is recommended for the eleventh grade or twelfth grade elective.

Global Age

Early Middle Age Through the Rise of Feudalism

1. Describe the impact of Germanic invasions on the fall of the Roman Empire and the rise of the Middle Ages.
2. Examine the role of the Christian Church upon European society.
3. Describe the development of the manorial and feudal systems between 500 CE and 1500 CE, including Europe, China, Japan, and Russia.
4. Discuss key people and events, including Battle of Tours, Charlemagne, Viking and Magyar invasions, the Norman conquest, unification under the Kamakura, the "divine wind", Gengis Khan and the Mongol invasions.
5. Compare and contrast social codes of conduct, i. e. Code of Chivalry, Code of Bushido, and Confucian principles regarding people in society.
6. Describe the concept of the Mandate of Heaven with respect to dynastic change in China.
7. Assess the impact of manorialism upon trade in Europe and the expansion of trade routes between Asia and Africa.
8. Describe the different artistic, literary, and architectural styles as pertains to each geographic region.

Europe

1. Examine the growth of trades and towns, the emergence of schools and universities, and the origins of the nation-state, i. e., Great Britain and France.
2. Explore the growing conflict between the Church and secular rulers.
3. Analyze the impact of the Crusades and the reconquest of Muslim Spain.
4. Identify the forces for fragmentation and change during the Late Middle Ages, i. e. One Hundred Years War, Black Death, peasant revolts, rise of the middle class, etc.
5. Discuss the importance of Italy's location in the resurgance of trade and exchange of ideas with the Islamic world.

6. Examine the growth of city-states, impact of patronage and the papacy, as well as the evolution of political and philosophical ideology.
7. Analyze key developments within the world of art, literature, science and technology (from Leonardo da Vinci through Newton).
8. Identify key individuals and their impact upon the Renaissance.
9. Examine the causes and effects of religious conflict.
10. Discuss the reformers and their pholosophies.
11. Evaluate the impact of the Catholic Counter-Reformation.
12. Idenifty key individuals in the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation.
13. Explain the theory and practice of Mercantilism.
14. Examine the causes of the Age of Exploration and the development of trading posts along the coast of Africa, India, Indonesia, and China.
15. Explore the Spanish conquest of the Americas and the Columbian Exchange.
16. Analyze the impact of colonialism on the political and economic institutions of Western Europe.
17. Discuss the development of the Atlantic slave trade.
18. Define and explain absolutism.
19. Describe centralization of absolute authority in Europe, including Spain, France, Russia, Austria, Prussia.
20. Examine limits on absolutism in England (Stuarts v. Parliament, Glorious Revolution, and English Bill of Rights).

Kingdoms and Trading States of Africa

1. Describe the trading empires in sub-Saharan Africa, including Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Great Zimbabwe, and the East Africa city states.
2. Examine the economic factors of the trans-Saharan camel trade: gold, salt, and slaves.
3. Explore the spread of Islam and its impact upon Africa.
4. Evaluate the importance of the rise of Christianity in Ethiopia.

5. Identify artistic, literary, architectural, scientific, and technological developments.

China

1. Explore the continuity of civilization despite dynastic change: Mandate of Heaven and Dynastic Cycle (Sui, T'ang, Sung, Yuan, and Ming).
2. Identify the artistic, literary, and cultural accomplishments of this period (painting, porcelain, technology, poetry, etc.).
3. Examine the expansion of domestic and foreign trade.
4. Identify important individuals and events in the history of China.
5. Analyze the impact of the inward turn China took under the later Ming emperors (ethnocentrism).
6. Describe the impact of the Manchu conquest and the arrival of the Europeans.

Japan

1. Describe the effect of the sea on Japan's history and geography.
2. Analyze the impact of Japan's contact with China (writing, religion, etc.).
3. Examine the effect of Ieasyu Tokugawa on Japan's government, trade, isolation, and religious traditions.
4. Identify important accomplishments in arts, literature, and theater.

Ottoman and Mughal Empires

1. Examine the rise of the Ottoman Empire from the capture of Constantinople to the development of its bureaucracy.
2. Analyze the reasons for the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and compare its decline to the fall of other empires.
3. Explore the artistic, technological, and architectural accomplishments of the Ottomans.
4. Describe the impact of Mughal rulers on the rise of the Mughal Empire in India.

5. Identify the impact of Islam on the culture of India under the Mughal Empire (arts, architecture, Sikh religion, etc.).

Americas: Maya, Aztec, and Inca

1. Compare the technological accomplishments of the three great pre-Columbian civilizations (architecture, writing, astronomy, etc.).
2. Analyze the governmental structure of the three great pre-Columbian civilizations.
3. Explore the trade network found in ancient Central and South America.
4. Describe the different religious beliefs of the three great pre-Columbian civilizations.
5. Examine the social structure and other cultural aspects of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations.

Social Studies Skills

1. Develop a research project and make formal presentations to the class using key terms, support for main ideas, examples, visual aids, formal citation of sources. Students will respond to feedback and questions about presentations with knowledge and civility.
2. Engage in group work on issues-analysis and decision-making: identify a problem or dilemma; analyze the interests, values and points of view; identify causes of the problem or dilemma; propose alternative solutions; formulate a position or course of action; evaluate the consequences of the action taken.
3. Use appropriate data sources and geographic tools to analyze the relationship between people and their environment.