

Age of Antiquity

Course Description

This semester class presents the wonders of the ancient world. The students will explore the origins of man, early civilizations, the development of world religions, classical civilizations, and the Roman and Byzantine empires. 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.

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Prehistoric Period

1. Define paleolithic and neolithic ages.
2. Describe the neolithic revolution.
3. Contrast culture and civilization.

Early River Valley Civilizations: Egypt, Fertile Crescent, Indus, and China

1. Understand the origins of literacy and its significance, i.e. pictographic writing, alphabetical writing (Hieroglyphics, Cuneiform, Phoenician, Chinese pictographs, etc.).
2. Explain new forms of religion, i. e. polytheism, monotheism.
3. Analyze the development of theocracy, early governmental and political systems, and law (Code of Hammurabi, etc.).
4. Describe the economic systems of the early river valley civilizations including agriculture and trade.
5. Describe the development of cities, including architecture, technology, social structure (class v. caste), gender divisions, culture and the arts.

Classical Civilizations: India, China, Greece, Rome

1. Identify and compare the ideas and traditions of the major world religions, show how they were reflected in various societies' cultures; and demonstrate how they have united and divided societies, i. e. Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Confucianism, Taoism, and Islam.
2. Cite and compare the development of opportunities for citizenship participation in classical societies, particularly Athens, Sparta, and Rome.
3. Analyze the impact of empire building on government organizations, migration, and culture/civilization; and compare different historical perspectives with respect to civilizations involved.
4. Trace and compare different cultures in the classical world in regard to

art, literature, customs, traditions, social developments, architecture, science and technology.

5. Explain the social, political, and economic status of women and other minorities.
6. Describe the economic systems of the classical world and their relationship to the development of empires.
7. Examine the birth of philosophical inquiry, i. e. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Marcus Aurelius, Confucius, Lao Tze, Legalism, Asoka, etc.
8. Identify historic individuals, ideas, and events, and draw conclusions regarding their significance.
9. Examine the influence of Christianity upon the Roman Empire.
10. Analyze the causes for the fall of classical civilizations (including Rome, Gupta India, and Han China).

The Resurgence of the Middle East: Byzantium and Islam

1. Describe the impact of the division of the Roman Empire and the rise of Constantinople on both governmental and religious institutions.
2. Discuss the role of Byzantium and Islamic civilization in preserving the heritage of Greece and Rome.
3. Examine the development of art, architecture, literature, mathematics, science and technology.
4. Describe the culture and society of Byzantium and the Islamic world.
5. Assess the impact of religion upon cultural institutions.
6. Examine the rise and development of Islam and the development of Byzantine and Islamic Empires.
7. Identify the role of geography and economics with respect to trade and migration of ideas and people.

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, and 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.