

20TH CENTURY WORLD STUDIES
GRADES 11-12
(1 Semester)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course provides students with a detailed look at key events in 20th Century World History. Students will learn about the key political and economic systems and philosophies which have shaped these events and their effect up to the present day. Students will then use this background to analyze crucial events such as World War I and II, the rise of dictators such as Adolf Hitler, the Cold War and nuclear arms race, and current world problems. Third world problems since 1945 are discussed in relation to the rest of the world. The course structure encourages the student to take an active role in class work. Class discussions, seminars, and role-play games are emphasized to fully explore the key issues in this period of World History. Students will also prepare written position papers and one research paper on a topic of their choice.

UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

- UNIT I - Forces Molding the 20th Century World

- UNIT II - The First World War: Causes and Results

- UNIT III - The Second World War
 - 1. The Rise of the Dictators
 - 2. Causes of the War
 - 3. An Examination of the War
 - 4. The Results of the War

- UNIT IV - The World Today
 - 1. The Cold War and Nuclear Arms Race
 - 2. Key World Issues Today
 - 3. Third World Issues

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

1.	Acquaint students with key concepts such as nationalism and imperialism as well as the basic political and economic systems of the 20th Century. (14B, 14E, 16B, 16C)
2.	Provide opportunities for students to apply those concepts in a discussion of issues surrounding World War I and II and post-world war problems. (14B, 14E, 16B, 16C)
3.	Familiarize students with the key persons, events, and movements which led to World War II. (14B, 14E, 16B, 16C)
4.	Provide the student with in-depth information on the rise of communism in Russia and the rise of Hitler in Germany. (14B, 14E, 16B, 16C)

5.	Examine the reasons for the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States and the results of that competition. (14B, 14E, 16B, 16C)
6.	Familiarize students with the people and events underlying changes and problems in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia (14B, 14E, 16B, 16C)
7.	Acquaint students with potential world issues and problems through the remainder of the 20th Century. (14B, 14E, 16B, 16C, 16E, 18A)
8.	Acquaint students with the popular culture element to propaganda. (18A)

MAJOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO ACHIEVE OUTCOMES:

1.	Participate in role-playing games that allow the student to simulate world problems, issues and results.
2.	Prepare a research paper on a topic in 20th Century World History of the student's choice.
3.	Participate in small group seminars and debates on issues concerning the causes and effects of international conflicts like the decision to use the Atomic Bomb and the Nuremberg Trials.
4.	Analyze propaganda in the form of films and posters.
5.	Develop a reaction journal.

ADOPTED TEXT OR PRINCIPAL MATERIALS USED:

There is not a textbook for this course. Teacher-prepared materials will be provided to the student for each unit. Some highlights include: various readings from the opposing viewpoint series, excerpts from various popular history books like the *Rape of Nanking* by Iris Chang and *The Good War* by Studs Terkel, plus readings from timely periodicals like *Newsweek* and *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*.

(01/21/03)
(04/28/00)