

World History and Geography

Section #1: Tuesday and Thursday, 1 PM Eastern

Section #2: Tuesday and Thursday, 4 PM

Instructor: Dallas Shipp, drshipp@gmail.com

Office Hours: 12PM to 2 PM Monday and Wednesday

I. Rationale:

World History is a survey of the ancient world, the Greek and Roman worlds, and the European Middle Ages. History is a synthesis of human memory and reveals both human nature and divine will, and thus knowledge of history is self-knowledge and is an encouragement to faith and sacred tradition. This course is intended for Orthodox high school students and precocious middle school students, and it is meant to instruct them in the nations and geography of the world generally and in the story of the Christian world in particular.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

A. Aims

The study of history helps us understand what God has revealed about human nature. Here, we will discuss human ambitions and limits, and learn about the values that bless and destroy civilizations. This is a humanities course, and so the aim is to better understand people and places.

B. Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Practice taking organized notes.
- Practice writing with clarity about values and events.
- Write clear expository sentences and paragraphs interpreting history.
- Write several short reports on selected modern states.
- Identify countries, capitals, and major physical features on the world map.
- Describe the key beliefs of major world religions, including ancient pagan beliefs.
- Describe Egyptian, Babylonian, ancient Chinese, Greek, Roman, and Medieval European civilizations.
- Describe the qualities that prosper human civilization and the vices that lead to civilizational collapse in history.
- Describe the correspondence of the Christian faith with the rise and fall of civilizations.

-Describe the harmony and conflicts within Christianity and the schism between Eastern and Western Christianity.

III. Format and Procedures:

We will meet twice a week for class. Each section of the class will relate to readings in the textbook, but not every class will require fresh reading. Classes will focus on instruction through slide shows, and *successful students will take careful notes from the slides*. Classes usually include discussion and *ex tempore* questions. Each student will be expected to complete independent geography research reports. Each class should last between 30 and 45 minutes, and students ought to sign into Edmodo 5 minutes before class begins.

Each student is expected to attend class *prepared to write notes* and up to date on their reading assignments.

Students are expected to listen carefully in class, write when told to write, and maintain appropriate classroom decorum. Students are expected to act like ladies and gentlemen. Questions are always welcome in and outside of class.

Each section of the class will conclude with a test. Each test is a written test with questions that require exposition with complete sentences and paragraphs.

IV. My Assumptions

I expect my students to attend class, take notes, read assignments, and take assessments. This class does not require previous knowledge of history.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Students must bring notebooks and writing instruments to each class.
2. Students are expected to answer assessment questions in complete sentences and organized paragraphs. Parents ought to use the history assessments to coach students on writing skills.
3. Students are expected to attend class on time.
4. Course readings:

Required texts:

[The Book of the Ancient World](#)

[The Book of the Ancient Greeks](#)

[The Book of the Ancient Romans](#)

VI. Expectations for Parents

- Set aside a calm, quiet, distraction-free space for your child(ren) to work every day.
- Ensure virtual learning equipment is available and charged.
- Establish routines and expectations and a basic schedule for completing classwork.
- Help students 'own' their learning.
- Check Edmodo for communications from teachers and help students print off resources that are provided.
- Stay abreast of teacher feedback in the form of grades or other messages.
- Proctor tests, quizzes, or other assessments as scheduled by the teacher. Parents ensure academic integrity because they are on the "live" side of the screen.
- Communicate with teachers regularly via email or Edmodo regarding any questions or issues that arise.
- If your child is having trouble completing work, email teachers to schedule a time for an online meeting.

VII. Grading Procedures

Grades will be weighted on the following scale:

- A: 90-100% Excellent, Outstanding Work
B: 80-90% Good, Above Average Work
C: 70-80% Average, Adequate Work
D: 60-70% Below Average, Inadequate Work
F: >60% Deficient Work

Assignment Weight

Tests: 50% of the final grade.

Quizzes: 20% of the final grade.

Map Tests: 20% of the final grade.

Student Geography Reports: 10% of the final grade.

VIII. Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. One great way to assess what you know is to teach the idea to a peer! You may also work together on problem sets and give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from your peers. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve

one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in any form. *No outside material may be substituted or consulted during an assessment. Notes and internet searches may not be consulted for fair assessments.* Assignments that have been previously submitted in another course may not be submitted for this course.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and disciplinary action.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action.

IX. Tentative Course Schedule

Each section of history will conclude with geography surveys and related geography assignments.

Topics	Readings to be discussed	Schedule
Ancient Babylon	<i>Book of the Ancient World</i>	August, Early September
Ancient Egypt	<i>Book of the Ancient World</i>	Late September
Ancient China	Readings TBA	Early October
Bronze Age Greece	<i>Book of the Ancient Greeks</i>	Late October
Classical Greece	<i>Book of the Ancient Greeks</i>	November and December
Rome	<i>Book of the Ancient Romans</i>	January and February
Fall of Rome	<i>Book of the Ancient Romans</i>	March
Rise of Islam	Readings TBA	April
Christendom	Readings TBA	May