

Ancient History
Fall 2017
Westlake High School
Room C232

Teacher: Ms. Cathy Miner

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Course Description

This course will provide a general introduction to several of the most prominent ancient civilizations from across the globe, introducing the student to the most salient features of each and examining its major influences on those who came later on. From Ancient Mesopotamia, to the Roman Empire, to Medieval Europe, and more, we will study the common themes of Civilization, social movements, and technological advancement. To paraphrase the late philosopher, George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." What we can learn from earlier men and women can benefit us today.

Classroom Rules

I ask you to come to every class prepared to learn. I also expect all students to demonstrate qualities of discipline, responsibility, honesty, and respect. Cheating will not be tolerated. You will receive a zero grade on any test, assignment, or project that is not your work. If you have a question whether or not you are cheating, you probably are. If you still don't know, ask me. Respect yourself, your peers, your teacher, your materials, and your classroom, and this will be a wonderful year for you in history. I am excited to have you.

Grading Breakdown (Subject to change)

Participation: 10%

You will be given 100 points at the beginning of each term. If you are late or refuse to participate appropriately I will dock participation points. If I have to take your cell phone or any other distraction away in class, you will automatically lose 10 points. You will be just fine on participation points if you are present each day, and are participating in class. Please be respectful of classmates and teachers.

Quizzes: 10%

On any given day throughout the semester you could have a quiz at the beginning of class. The questions on the quizzes will mostly come from the previous class discussion. Pay attention in class, take notes, and review them daily to score well on the quizzes. Your lowest quiz score each semester will be dropped. If you are tardy, you may not make up the quiz you missed. Missing quizzes could have a significant negative impact on your grade.

Starters/Enders: 10%

You will be required to get to work at the beginning of class each day. This will typically take the form of a writing prompt or activity designed to get us focused on the day's topic of study. We will also end class with some sort of learning check. If you pay attention and participate throughout the class, these should be easy points.

Assignments: 35%

Most assignments for each unit will be turned in collectively on the day you take the corresponding unit exam. Assignments may consist of (1) group work, (2) class work, (3) handouts, (4) personal reflection summaries, (5) experiments or projects, (6) research papers, and/or (7) video summaries. Complete the assignments the day

they are assigned, instead of waiting until the night before they are due. You will score much better in this section if you avoid procrastination.

Assessments: 35%

At the end of each unit, you will take a unit test or complete a unit project. If you keep up with the classwork, participate in class discussion, and complete assignments, you should score well.

Test corrections: If a student scores less than a 75% on a test they can do test corrections. Each correct answer gets them back half points. They can score up to 75% on the test.

Grading Scale:

A = 93% - 100	A- = 90% - 92.9%	
B+ = 87% - 89.9%	B = 83% - 86.9%	B- = 80% - 82.9%
C+ = 77% - 79.9%	C = 73% - 76.9%	C- = 70% - 72.9%
D = 67% - 69.9%	D- = 60% - 66.9%	

Late Work Policy

No late work will be accepted after the unit test. If your absence is excused your work is due the next time you are in class or the same consequences apply as an unexcused absence.

Absent Work Policy

An unexcused absence will result in 50% off of late work. You may only make up quizzes if your absence is excused. You will be required to turn in the work that was due the day of your absence on the day you return. You will need to take tests within two class periods of when you return. You may take tests and quizzes either before or after school. Do not expect to catch me during lunch. Please discuss your schedule with me before coming to take tests.

If you will be absent due to a Westlake extracurricular activity, it is your responsibility to speak with me beforehand about the work you will be missing. You will be able to predict what you will be missing from your unit plan, but speak with me before your absence for further clarifications about what you will be missing. I will be happy to work with you, as long as you prepare responsibly for your school approved absences.

Extra Credit

I will provide a few minor extra credit opportunities throughout each semester. However, if you would like to raise your grade one half step at the end of each term, you may create a PowerPoint presentation or video of one concept learned in History. The PowerPoint presentations must be at least 15 slides, with pictures, and a presentation to the class. The videos must be at least five minutes long. All extra credit projects must be approved by me beforehand. You are only allowed one project per term. I will provide a specific rubric separately. Extra credit opportunities only raise you overall score. They never substitute for incomplete grades.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones and other personal electronic devices must remain on silent at all times. If you choose to use them you could (1) lose participation points (2) lose the opportunity to complete an extra credit project, or (3) force your parent or guardian to come pick up your phone from me. Be respectful toward me and your classmates, and we shouldn't have a problem. If I see you using your phone when you are taking a test you will receive zero points on that test, and you will be required to make it up on your own time.

Name _____

Class _____

Ancient History Disclosure Document

I have read the class disclosure document and understand my responsibilities in Ms. Miner's class this year.

Student's signature _____

Date _____

I have read the class disclosure document and understand my student's responsibilities in Ms. Miner's class this year.

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____

If there is any information you think would be helpful for me to know as your teacher, please let me know in the space provided below. (medical concerns, accommodations, personal circumstances, why you're amazing, etc.)