

**Arts Academy World History & Geography**  
An examination of the people, ideas, events and cultural expressions important in the course of world history.

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**CANVAS**

Please check Canvas daily. All lessons, assignments, and resources are on Canvas.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

World History & Geography is a yearlong survey course that examines people, ideas, and events that have had a lasting impact on the development of modern human society. We begin with some principles of history and geography and chart the course of human existence worldwide from end of the Middle Ages until the present day. The purpose of the course is to increase understanding of the world through study of historical, political, economic, social, diplomatic, and cultural events and trends. The history of the world is a fascinating subject, containing the best and the worst of human life on this planet. To study world history is to study war and peace, creation and destruction, cruelty and greatness. At the end of this syllabus is a detailed breakdown of what topics will be on your first semester tests.

**CLASS RULES**

We brainstormed about what kind of class we want. Overwhelmingly, you asked for a class that is interesting, organized, calm, supportive, and quiet, with a good mix of activities. For me as a teacher, to deliver that kind of experience for you, I need to be clear, organized, plan a variety of interesting and engaging lessons, be kind, and have good classroom management. For you, you need to be focused, quiet, kind, and to participate. So, we'll have three class rules:

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1) Be kind   | 2) Participate in class |
| 3) Stay silent when others are talking or when it's silent work time |                         |

## KEY CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

PCEP has a [student handbook](#) that details conduct expectations.

Personally, four parts that are vitally important to me as a teacher are:

- Be **respectful** (NO teasing, bullying, cyberbullying, harassment);
- **Attend** classes regularly and on time;
- **No phones** out during class without teacher permission;
- Have **academic integrity** (no cheating, no plagiarism).

## CHARACTER / HABITS OF MIND

As a student, your attitude (how you think about and approach learning and life) is key. Studies have shown that strong **character traits** (like zest, grit, self-control, social intelligence, gratitude, curiosity, optimism, and integrity) are actually a better predictor of school, college and life success than intelligence is. What is cool about character traits is that, unlike intelligence, they are malleable; you can grow in your character throughout your life, which means that you can impact your own life.

Good character -> happiness + success.

As a student, your success will grow as you foster the habits of mind that help you in your scholarship. These key academic **habits of mind** include:



## SELF-CARE

It is vitally important that you **take care of yourself** in high school. Get enough sleep (at least eight hours) and eat enough food. Build relationships with people you like and trust whom you can share your problems with. Pace your school, family, and extracurricular life so that you don't get overwhelmed. Think about how many hours a day you spend on your phone or other devices and, if that doesn't align with your priorities of how you want to spend your days, reclaim some of that time for yourself. Find an adult or two (at school or elsewhere) whom you can lean on for support or advice if you need it. I'm available if you need to talk. Pay attention in class, do your work, and study for your tests so that school doesn't stress you out too much and so that you get value out of it. Think about what you are interested in and what you like to do and spend some time every day doing that. Be good to yourself.

## GRADING POLICIES

1. Semester grades: This yearlong course is divided into two separate semesters. Each semester contains two quarters and a final exam. Grades for this class carry throughout the semester (they won't reset at the quarter). You will receive 0.5 credits for each semester and each semester shows up separately on your transcript. Any semester you fail (earn less than 60% for a final grade) needs to be retaken later in your school career.
2. Canvas/MiStar: I post assignments and grades in detail on Canvas. You should check Canvas regularly. Your grades from Canvas will show up automatically in MiStar; however, there won't be any detail there; always check Canvas for details.
3. Copying/Cheating: Cheating on a test, letting someone copy your work, copying another's work, using your phone on a test, and/or copying from the Internet without citing your sources will all result in a zero. (You may, of course, conduct research for assignments online, as long as you a) paraphrase / summarize, b) do your own original thinking, and c) cite your sources, if necessary.)
4. Late work: Late work is discouraged. If you are having a hard time keeping up, please see me. Typically, late work is marked down for being late, excepting extenuating circumstances or specific written accommodations.
5. Absent work: You will need to make up any work that you miss. This includes being prepared for any tests. Please check Canvas and/or check with a friend before you ask me what you missed.
6. Credit: I will give you feedback on much of the work you do in class, and you will be able to track your grade by checking Canvas. However, I am unable to collect, grade, and enter all of the work you do. Please do all that is asked of you with the expectation that it will help you to master the material; know that what I ask you to do is valuable and for your learning, whether or not I collect/grade it.

7. Grading scale:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage Scale</u>	<u>GPA Equivalent</u>
A+	100%	4.00
A	93.0 - 99.9%	4.00
A-	90.0 - 92.9%	3.67
B+	87.0 - 89.9%	3.33
B	83.0 - 86.9%	3.00
B-	80.0 - 82.9%	2.67
C+	77.0 - 79.9%	2.33
C	73.0 - 76.9%	2.00
C-	70.0 - 72.9%	1.67
D+	67.0 - 69.9%	1.33
D	63.0 - 66.9%	1.00
D-	60.0 - 62.9%	0.67

Note: These add up to create your “academic” grade.

Your final exam creates a “final exam” grade.

This “academic” grade is worth 85% of your final semester grade, and your “final exam” is worth 15% of your final semester grade.

**GRADING BREAKDOWN**

Classwork: 50%  
Tests: 30%  
Reading: 10%  
Homework: 10%

**50% Classwork:** The largest portion of your World History grade (50%) comes from the work you do in class. Much of this is done in your composition book. Depending on the day, however, classwork may include a variety of tasks, including bellwork, work in your composition book, class discussions, brainstorming, reading primary and secondary texts, answering questions orally and in writing, taking self-graded quizzes to check what you know, listening to and/or taking notes on lectures, watching and/or taking notes on videos and films, completing handouts, textbook work, other written work, projects, activities, plays, simulations, presenting to others and learning from others, structured conversations in class (like fishbowls and Socratic seminars), studying on Quizlet, playing review games on sites like Gimkit, and various other individual, partner and group learning activities. I won't grade everything you do, but anything I do grade that you do during class time that's not reading or a test will go into your classwork grade. If it's a non-written activity, as long as you participate in a thoughtful, respectful and attentive way (be kind/think deeply/work hard), you will earn an A for that activity. There will definitely be opportunities to show me what you've learned through visual art, music, or performance, if you're someone who enjoys those things. When I can, I will offer you choices to show me your learning in the way that you like best (i.e. summarizing, charts, drawings, drama, music, etc). We will also take some mini “field trips” during class (ask an Arts Academy sophomore about “playing” Great Schism or “playing” Berlin Wall!)

**30% Tests:** 30% of your world history grade is based on your test scores. Expect to take five tests per semester, one about every three weeks. Tests will typically be on Tuesdays, and will be a mix of multiple choice/matching/fill in the blank and short answer. These tests will assess your retention and understanding of the history that we cover in class. See the end of this syllabus for a 1<sup>st</sup> semester schedule of when your tests will be and what topics they will cover. I will provide you with a study guide for each test.

**10% Free Voluntary Reading (FVR):** 10% of your grade will come from daily reading. We read choice world historical fiction for 10 minutes at the end of every class. We have hundreds of novels, and you always choose what you want to read. As long as you are reading, you will earn an A for reading each week. There are no book reports, summaries, or any other work that is tied to reading; it's just reading. Studies say that you learn SO MUCH from just reading (literacy, empathy, deeper knowledge of place and time, vocabulary, etc...). Our curriculum is VAST (see the list of test topics at the end of this syllabus to see what I mean), and so reading novels gives you the chance to dig in to one place and one time and one person's story in world history, at your own pace, and really get to know that moment in history in a much deeper way than you can when I only have one class period to teach you about the Mongols, or the Ottomans, or the Manchus.

**10% Homework:** 10% of your grade will be taken from the score you earn on your geography tests, which you'll have every three weeks or so. I count these map tests as your homework grade, since I give you hardly any other homework, and memorizing where countries are on a map is something you can do on your own without my help. (I don't really believe in traditional homework, for a number of reasons, but I think it's very important for you as a high school student to know how to find, learn, organize, evaluate, synthesize, review, and retain information, which is what one does when one studies for tests.) There are many tools you can use to study geography, but my favorite four are: 1) the website [seterra.com](http://seterra.com), 2) the app Stack the Countries, and the daily online games 3) [Worldle](http://Worldle) and 4) [Globe](http://Globe). For your first test, on Tuesday, September 26, you'll be responsible for knowing where the first 20 UN member countries are (alphabetically, that's Afghanistan through Bolivia; study for that test at <https://bit.ly/raynamap1>), and I'll add 20 more countries every three weeks. In June, I'll give you a final geography test on 200 countries (you can preview that content at <https://bit.ly/raynamapfinal>).

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## Calendar of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester History & Map Tests

- Your history test grades count as **assessments** (30% of your grade).
- Study for all of your history tests on Quizlet: <https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023>.
- In late January and mid June, you will have a final exam on all of the material from that semester.
- Your map test grades count as **homework** (10% of your grade).
- In early June, you will have a geography final on 200 total countries.
- Study at <https://bit.ly/raynamapfinal>

Test	Date	What You Should Know
Test #1	Tues 9/26	<p><b>Countries:</b> Afghanistan - Bolivia (20 countries) Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/raynamap1">https://bit.ly/raynamap1</a></p> <p><b>History:</b> Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023">https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>History basics:</b> primary/secondary sources, fact/opinion/bias, cause &amp; effect, historical time, map skills, agricultural revolution, civilization</li> <li>2) <b>Empires:</b> Golden Age, ethnic diversity, rise/fall</li> <li>3) <b>China:</b> Chinese belief systems (Confucianism, Taoism, Legalism), dynastic cycle, Mandate of Heaven, civil service exam</li> </ol>
Test #2	Tues 10/17	<p><b>Countries:</b> Afghanistan - Cuba (40 countries) Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/raynamap2">https://bit.ly/raynamap2</a></p> <p><b>History:</b> Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023">https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Religion:</b> monotheism/polytheism, origin + basic tenets + spread + syncretism among major world religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam)</li> <li>2) <b>Trade:</b> Routes: Silk Road/Indian Ocean/Gold+Salt, Pre-Columbian), + role of taxes, religion, natural resources, technology, hajj, Middle East, Swahili Coast, urbanization, positive/negative impact, historical examples of cultural diffusion</li> <li>3) <b>Hierarchies:</b> caste system, feudalism</li> <li>4) <b>Influential religions:</b> Catholic Church/Christendom, Muslim empires/Dar al Islam/Muslim golden age</li> <li>5) <b>Empires:</b> “Holy Roman,” Aztec, Inca, Mongol, Byzantine, Ottoman</li> <li>6) <b>Religious splits and conflicts:</b> Crusades, Sunni/Shi’a, Great Schism, Protestant Reformation, Spanish Inquisition, Reconquista</li> <li>7) <b>Terms:</b> scapegoat, caliphate, Sunni, Shi’a, medieval, Middle/Dark Ages, House of Wisdom, Pax Mongolica, Constantinople, gunpowder</li> </ol>
Test #3	Mon 11/6	<p><b>Countries:</b> Afghanistan - France (60 countries) Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/raynamap3">https://bit.ly/raynamap3</a></p> <p><b>History:</b> Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023">https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Black Plague:</b> impact, growth of cities</li> <li>2) <b>Absolutism:</b> end of feudalism, divine right</li> <li>3) <b>Empires:</b> Safavid, Songhai, Ming, Mughal, Spanish, French, Russian, Tokugawa</li> <li>4) <b>Renaissance:</b> humanism, art, Scientific Revolution, printing press</li> <li>5) <b>Terms:</b> literacy, Sikhism</li> </ol>

Test	Date	What You Should Know
Test #4	Tues 11/28	<p><b>Countries:</b> Afghanistan - Israel (80 countries) Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/raynamap4">https://bit.ly/raynamap4</a></p> <p><b>History:</b> Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023">https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Exploration:</b> ocean navigation, European route to Asia, European motivations, spread of Islam to Southeast Asia, Old/New World, Columbian Exchange</li> <li>2) <b>Americas:</b> Aztec/Mayan/Incan and Native American religions and Christian proselytism, effect of Old World disease on New World peoples</li> <li>3) <b>Mercantilism:</b> raw materials/manufactured goods, European competition, gold and silver mining in the Americas, colony/"mother" country, colonies as markets</li> <li>4) <b>Transatlantic slave trade:</b> racism, Triangular Trade, guns, Middle Passage, plantation complex, resistance</li> <li>5) <b>Hierarchy:</b> colonial Latin America (peninsulares, creoles, mestizos, etc)</li> <li>6) <b>Nationalism:</b> Germany, Italy</li> <li>7) <b>Imperialism/Colonialism:</b> motivations, British Empire, White Man's Burden, differences in capabilities and motivations (i.e. Britain vs. China), migration</li> </ol>
Test #5	Tues 12/19	<p><b>Countries:</b> Afghanistan - Luxembourg (100 countries) Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/raynamap5">https://bit.ly/raynamap5</a></p> <p><b>History:</b> Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023">https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>China &amp; Japan:</b> Opium War, Taiping Rebellion, Boxer Rebellion, Meiji Restoration, isolation vs. engagement, Japan's need for resources</li> <li>2) <b>Industrial Revolution:</b> beginnings in England, causes and effects, food supply/agricultural tech, social inequality + rise of middle class, colonial infrastructure (i.e. railroads), organized labor, role of women and children, urbanization</li> <li>3) <b>Revolutions:</b> characteristics, American Revolution (+ impact), French Revolution (+ impact, French "plague"), Haitian Revolution (+ abolition, + impact, + current status), Latin American Revolutions (i.e. Mexican), role of class (upper class, middle class, peasants), social inequality (i.e. Three Estates), Enlightenment ideas</li> <li>4) <b>Partition of Africa</b></li> </ol>
1st Sem Final Exams	Wed 1/24 - Fri 1/26	<p><b>History:</b> Study: <a href="https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023">https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023</a></p> <p><b>The final exam will cover all history content from tests #1-5.</b></p> <p>You will not have a comprehensive geography final until the end of second semester. The week of January 8, we will watch the film <i>Les Misérables</i> in class. Beginning on January 16, we will review for the final exam.</p>

You can study for all of your history tests on Quizlet: <https://bit.ly/worldquizlet2023>

Your Geography Final in June will be on 200 total countries: <https://bit.ly/raynamapfinal>



**\*\* GET BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAGE SIGNED AND RETURN IT TO ME \*\***

## **SYLLABUS SIGNATURE PAGE**

**(DUE ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15)**

**UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF CLASSROOM GUIDELINES:**

Signatures of both student and parent or guardian are required; they indicate agreement and acceptance of all classroom expectations laid out in this syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of parent/guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian e-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian phone number

**Note to parents/guardians:**

Please feel free to use the space below to tell me anything in particular that I can do to help your student succeed or any concerns that you have about your student's well-being or achievement this semester:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

September 10, 2023

To the Parents and Guardians of World History Students:

When we study global revolutions later this semester, I will be showing the students the film version of the musical *Les Misérables* in class. Based off of the famous novel by Victor Hugo, this film brings to life two decades in post-revolutionary France during the early 1800s. It also gives us jumping-off points for discussion of important themes in world history like social hierarchy, conflict, stability and change, and the power of ideology.

I am asking for your permission because *Les Misérables* is rated PG-13 for some language, violence and mature content. There is a link to a parental content guide on this website: <https://www.common sense media.org/movie-reviews/les-miserables>.

Please indicate below if your student has permission to watch this film in class. If you do not wish for your student to watch this film, an alternative assignment will be provided.

Sincerely,  
Rayna Gill  
(734) 255-3782  
rayna.gill@pccsk12.com

I give my student, \_\_\_\_\_, permission  
*student name*  
to watch *Les Misérables* in class. \_\_\_\_\_.  
*parent or guardian signature*

I do NOT give my student, \_\_\_\_\_, permission  
*student name*  
to watch *Les Misérables* in class. \_\_\_\_\_.  
*parent or guardian signature*

**(PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15)**

**TAKE THIS PAGE HOME AND GIVE IT TO  
YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

Dear parents and guardians,

I am looking forward to getting to know your student this year.

World History is a very exciting class and I am confident that your student will enjoy learning a bit about the many regions, cultures, and peoples of the world, as well as the ideas and events that have shaped world civilization. I love teaching this class.

One thing that I am particularly excited about is that I received a grant a few years from the Educational Excellence Foundation to purchase a slew of young adult historical world fiction. Studies show that free voluntary reading increases three things simultaneously: 1) literacy, 2) academic achievement, and 3) interest in the subject matter. We cover a vast array of topics in World History, and at a pretty brisk pace. Thanks to EEF, the students are able to also spend ten minutes a day going deep into one historical era and time period at a time, by connecting with the characters and the plot in their chosen novel. Your student may read a number of historical fiction novels in class this year; you can ask them what they're reading and what they're learning!

The best way to reach me is by e-mail at [rayna.gill@pccsk12.com](mailto:rayna.gill@pccsk12.com).  
My website is [raynagill.com](http://raynagill.com).

To sign up for "Remind" texts from me about upcoming test dates and other helpful reminders for your student, text the message @2023rayna5 (for 5<sup>th</sup> hour) or @2023rayna6 (for 6<sup>th</sup> hour) to the number 81010 or to the number 734-259-3533.

I post daily classwork on **Canvas**. Grades from Canvas will also show up on **MiStar**, but all of the assignment detail that students need will be on Canvas itself. On my website, [raynagill.com](http://raynagill.com), there are links to Canvas, MiStar, Quizlet, Remind, and other helpful information.

Again, I am very much looking forward to working with your students. I look forward to connecting with many of you at parent/guardian/teacher conferences in November.

Please use the bottom of the preceding (signature) page to tell me anything in particular that I can do to help your student succeed or any concerns that you have about your student's well-being or achievement this semester.

Thanks,

Rayna Gill