**Curriculum**

**Western Civilization**

**Course Overview**

This course investigates the social, economic, political, religious, and philosophical developments in Europe from the Renaissance to the present. Students concentrate on the emergence of modern ideas and their relationship to history. Major themes include the relationship between religious beliefs and human activity; technology, science, and the scientific method; exploration and discovery; sovereignty; the development of nation-states; social stratification; the emergence of representative political institutions; capitalism, trade, and the industrial revolution; world conflict; and the influence of certain individuals upon history. Finally, this course seeks to enhance the students’ understanding of the contemporary world.

**Department Standards**

Expected Outcomes:

1. Knowledge of and interest in history, the social and behavioral sciences and related subjects.
2. Constructive participation in a democratic society.
3. Understanding of various societies throughout history.
4. Development of critical analysis skills.
5. Development of research skills.
6. Development of communication and presentation skills.

**Benchmarks**:

Students will be able to:

Distinguish primary and secondary sources.

Compose expository essays.

Use the library and Internet to uncover research materials.

Revise corrected drafts and early stages in a research project.

Understand the significant events and movements of Western Civilization.

Develop an appreciation of how change occurs in political, social, economic, and cultural development in Western Civilization.

Relate their knowledge of Western Civilization in class discussions, debates, group work and other activities.

**Performance Indicators**

**First Semester:**

To review the spread of ideas, The European Renaissance and Reformation; to determine the causes and effects of the Age of Exploration;

To examine the Spanish Empire and the Shifts in European Power;

To scrutinize the Tudors and the Stuarts to 1688; To analyze Europe in the Age of the Absolute Monarch (and compare the concept of absolutism with that of the constitutional monarchy); To trace the development of the Scientific Revolution; To discuss the Enlightenment in Europe; and To understand the French Revolution.

**Second Semester:**

To investigate the concept of a technological revolution; European dominance and the Industrial Revolution 1700-1850; To study Europe from 1815 to 1850; Restoration, Romanticism and Revolution; To explore 19th Century reform in England; To recognize economic expansion and nationalism from 1851-1848; To survey the Age of Imperialism, 1875-1914; To comprehend the changes in life during the Turn of the Century, 1865-1914; To probe World War I; To Trace Russia in Revolution, 1825-1939; To look into the Years Between the Wars, 1919-1939; To Study the concept of Totalitarianism; To consider World War II; To analyze, and reflect on, the Holocaust; To evaluate Europe in the Cold War and post-Cold War Eras, 1945-Present; To summarize the Global Village, 1945-Present.

**Assessments**

Unit Tests

Open-Note Quizzes

Note Taking Homework assignments

Unit projects such as, videos, group presentations, and book reviews.

Semester Exams

Research/Term Paper on a topic related to Western Civilization, 8-10 pages in length, fully documented, end-notes, bibliography, et al. This paper is a required semester paper which must be submitted; failure to do so results in an "F" for the semester grade. Students must submit an outline of their topic prior to submitting the rough draft which leads to the final draft. It is combined with the semester examination mark, both equalling 20% of a student's semester grade.

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**Core Topics**

The Renaissance 1300-1600

The Reformation 1450-1650

Exploration 1300-1600

The Spanish Empire and Shifts in European Power 1500-1650

England: Tudor Queen and Stuart Kings 1558-1688

Europe in the Age of Absolute Monarchs 1648-1763

Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment 1450-1790

The French Revolution and Napoleon 1789-1815

Restoration, Romanticism, and Revolution 1815-18503. Quarter 3

The Industrial Revolution 1700-1850

Economic Expansion and Nationalism 1851-1876

The Age of Imperialism 1875-1914

The Turn of the Century 1865-1914

World War I 193-19184. Quarter 4

Russia in Revolution 1825-1939

Shifts in World Power 1900-1939

The Years Between the Wars 1918-1939

World War II 1939-45

Europe in the Cold War Era 1945-1990's

From the Cold War to a New Millennium 1985-Present

**Specific Content**

**First Semester:**

The Renaissance of Northern Italy and Flanders

Explorations from Europe the east and west

The Protestant Reformation

The Scientific Revolution

The Latin American Spanish Empire

Shifts in European Power from the 1500-1650’s

Tudor and Stuart Kings in England

Absolutism with Louis XIV of France and Peter the Great of Russia

The European Enlightenment

The American Revolution

The French Revolution and Napoleon

The Industrial Revolution

Restoration of Europe through the Congress of Vienna

Romanticism

**Second Semester:**

Industrialism becomes a global force

Nationalism grows in Europe

European Imperialism in Africa and Asia

Inventions and the Turn of the Century from 1865-1914

Women’s Rights and Suffrage

World War I

The Russian Revolution

Chinese Communism

The Great Depression

World War II

The Cold War in Europe and The United States

The Post-war change in Science and Technology

**Resources**

*Western Civilization* 8th Edition by Spielvogel (2012); selected hand-outs within each unit.