**Curriculum**

**Ancient and Medieval World**

**Course Overview**

This course surveys the ancient and mediaeval background to Western Civilization. The students will examine the main achievements of the Neolithic Revolution, the Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations, our Hebrew Heritage, Greek and Roman Civilization, Christian Europe, the impact of Islam, the High Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Reformation. The students will learn to identify and organize geographic, economic, political, religious, and technological developments in order to support logical explanations for historical change.

**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 Ancient and Mediaeval History.

Develop an appreciation of how change occurs in political, social, economic, and cultural development in Ancient and Mediaeval History.

Relate their knowledge of Ancient and Mediaeval History in class discussions, debates, group work and other activities.

**Performance Indicators**

**First Semester:**

Evaluate the theory of natural selection as applied to human development; Explain the major causes and effects of the domestication of plants and animals; Determine why civilizations developed along similar lines; Evaluate the relationship between environment and social development; Understand how monotheism developed and the concept of a "book religion"; Distinguish between Cycladic, Minoan, Mycenaean and Archaic Greek cultures; Explain how changes in the Greek city-states gave rise to the concept of democracy; Understand why the Greeks were the first to develop rationalism; Appreciate how a society's values and institutions can be understood through its art; Synthesize how Greek culture was spread beyond Greece; Determine how the Romans became dominant first in Italy and then in the Western Mediterranean; Explain how the city-state government of Rome was unable to cope with the stresses of Empire; Explain how specific reforms solved long-standing problems in the Roman system of empire; Evaluate how the increasing sophistication of Rome's neighbours and the problem of "land accumulation" weakened the Empire's stability; Synthesize how different parts of the Empire suffered different effects because of invasion.

**Second Semester:**

Understand the Judaic roots of Christianity and the effects of Christianity's spread into the non-Judaic world; Determine why Christianity was influenced first by Roman persecution and later by Roman sponsorship; Synthesize how Charlemagne was able, but only briefly, to rebuild a large-scale state; Explain how manorialism and feudalism provided stability after the collapse of the Roman Empire; Evaluate how monarchs were able to loosen the restraints of feudalism; Explain why the interests of monarchs and the papacy clashed; Determine how Church corruption led to the rise of new monastic organizations and to the Crusades; Understand why long-distance trade, agricultural improvements, and guild-organization encouraged the rise of urbanization; Explain how the Black Death accelerated the above developments; Evaluate how the development of bourgeois society in Italy led to the Renaissance; Explain why Italian humanism became Christian humanism in Northern Europe; Determine how the reform movements (Wycliffe, Hus, and the Conciliar movement) failed; Understand why the ending of invasions and the territorial changes caused by the Hundred Years War resulted in the rise of Nation-states; Explain why Luther succeeded when Wycliffe and Hus failed; Evaluate how much reform there was in the Catholic Reformation.

**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 Ancient and Mediaeval History, 7-9 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.

**Core Topics**

The Development of Agriculture

Early Mesopotamian and Egyptian Civilizations

The Ancient Hebrews

Writing Expository Essays

Organizing a Research Project

The Ancient Greek Civilization

The Rise and Fall of the Roman Republic

The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire

The Byzantine Empire and the Rise of Islam

The Rise and Spread of Christianity

The Early Middle Ages

The High Middle Ages

The Renaissance

The Protestant Reformation

**Specific Content**

**First Semester:**

**First Semester:**

Early man; the Neolithic Revolution.

The development of Irrigational Civilizations and more complex economic, social and political organizations.

The Bible as a primary source; the development of ethical monotheism.

The nature of composing a thesis.

The evaluation of primary and secondary sources.

Pre-Classical Hellenic Society.

Classical Greece.

The Rise of Democracy, Rationalism, Philosophy and Drama.

Alexander and Hellenization.

The Rise of the Roman Republic.

The corrupting effects of gaining an empire.

Augustus' organization of the Empire.

The internal and external pressures that weakened the Empire in the 3rd century.

The barbarian invasions.

**Second Semester:**

The Byzantine Empire.

The Rise of Islam.

The origins, evolution and spread of Christianity.

The development of the creed and structure of the Christian Church.

The Carolingian Renaissance.

The organization of feudalism and manorialism.

The reforms of Henry II and the reversal seen in the Magna Carta.

The clash between centralizing mediaeval rulers and the expanding power of the papacy.

The reform movements visible in new monastic organizations.

The growth of trade, cities, and the bourgeoisie.

The Effects of the Black Death.

The Italian Renaissance.

The Spread of the Renaissance to the North.

The failed efforts to bring about church reform.

The Rise of the Nation-State.

Christian Humanism, the rise of Caesaropapism, and the Lutheran Reform Movement.

The clash between divergent reformers and the Catholic Reformation.

**Resources**

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

"Guidelines for Research"

Episode 1 of Jared Diamond’s “Guns, Germs and Steel.”

Episodes from Simon Schama's History of Britain, relating to the Norman Conquest, Henry II, the Black Death, and Henry VIII.

A field trip to the British Museum to see artefacts from Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece and Rome with a scavenger hunt around the museum.