

MEMO

DATE: February, 2018

TO: Prospective AP World History Students and Parents

FROM: Sarah Fisher, Rob Smithrud

RE: AP World History Course Commitments and Requirements

We would like to ensure that all students who enroll in AP World History have an accurate understanding of what the course entails. AP World History is a college-level course for which students who score well on the AP exam can earn college credit. As such, it is a demanding and time-consuming class. Students should be strong readers who are willing to devote the required amount of time to reading a college-level text and doing other class assignments, typically totaling an hour per night. Students should have strong writing skills. Objective tests cover more material than regular history classes and require additional study time. The material we cover is highly conceptual so students should be strong analytical and abstract thinkers. The course requires that we cover all of world history, so we are dealing with an extensive amount of material over an equally extensive period of time. The pace is rigorous and unrelenting. Students will be required to independently learn material assigned as homework, as class sessions will focus only on selected concepts and skills. Time in class will be spent more in lecture and discussions than on projects. It is essential that you have very good attendance because we cover so much additional material in class. In addition, a summer assignment is required of all students, including working with their college-level textbook.

For students who are able and willing to make the commitment to the course, the rewards are many. Although students entering the course should have strong reading, writing and study skills, we will work hard in the class to develop and improve students' abilities in these areas. AP World History focuses on preparing you for college and other AP courses. It is far better to learn how to read, write and prepare for college level courses now in a class that builds this skill development into its curriculum. The truly global nature of AP World (no more than 30% is European History) means you will learn about times and places that are likely to be unfamiliar to you, but are very interesting.

In summary, we want to encourage you to challenge yourself in rigorous courses. However, this course is not an honors or an "advanced" class; it is an actual freshman college course and so requires a higher level of individual commitment and accountability as well as intellectual maturity. Please consider your schedule decisions carefully. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Thank you,

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