Welcome to AP World History!

I look forward to getting to know you as we travel through art history together! Below are the course Description and your summer assignment. You must select 2 of the 3 assignments listed to have completed for the first day of class. If you have any questions about the assignments prior to our first day of school, please contact me at Jessica.cameron@sccpss.com

Have a fantastic summer and I hope you enjoy your journey into the world of history!

- Mrs. Cameron

Course Description

AP World History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university world history course. In AP World History students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in six historical periods from approximately 8000 B.C.E. to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; making historical comparisons; utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time; and developing historical arguments. The course provides five themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction between humans and the environment; development and interaction of cultures; state building, expansion, and conflict; creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems; and development and transformation of social structures.
Summer Assignment:

Students must complete 2 of the 4 choices.

**Choice 1: Geographical Coverage**

Students need basic geographical knowledge in order to understand world history. The map below gives students a starting point for identifying regions and their locations relative to other regions and landforms. Geospatial awareness is fundamental knowledge for students to build an understanding of cross-cultural contacts, trade routes, migrations, etc., which constitute the key concepts in the AP World History course.

**Materials:** Internet, maps provided, colored pencils

**Directions:** Please input the following information on the map provided.

Label the following sub-regions on the map and color in the geographical borders.

- Central Asia
- East Asia
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Middle East
- North Africa
- West Africa
- Central Africa
- East Africa
- Southern Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa (this will overlap)
- North America
- Latin America (will overlap)
- Caribbean
- South America

Label all the continents and major waterways (major oceans and seas)
Choice 2: Introduction to our Civilizations through Video

For this section of your assignment, you will learn more about four of the major civilizations established in the Foundation period through the Crash Course World History playlist, hosted by John Green (The Fault in Our Stars). Watch the following videos and answer the questions in the space provided. (yes, all 3)

Crash Course #1: Agricultural Revolution

Watch this:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yocja_N5s1I&index=1&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9

Answer the following questions:

1. How do we have evidence of Hunter-Gatherers (H-G) and their lifeways? (New word that means “ways of life”, do not use “lifestyle”).
2. What do most early civilizations have in common?
3. What advantages did H-G have over early agriculturalists?
4. Where did agriculture emerge? Which food crops are associated with which areas?
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of agriculture?
6. What impact does agriculture have on the environment?
7. What other lifeway emerged besides being a H-G or a farmer (agriculturalist)?
8. What were the advantages and disadvantages to Pastoralism (being a herder)?
9. What advantages do you think that Eurasia had with its zoological set of animals compared to the Americas?
10. Evaluate John Green’s thesis that “the greatest evolutionary advantage an animal species can have is being useful to humans.” Agree/disagree, why?

Crash Course #2: Indus River Valley Civilization

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7ndRwqJYDM&index=2&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9

Answer the following questions:

1. How is the concept of “civilization” a useful construct? When is it not a useful construct?
2. How does John Green define what constitutes a civilization? How does this compare to other definitions of civilization you have learned?
3. Where did the earliest civilizations emerge? Why there?
4. Why was the Indus Valley a prime location? How did the environment impact the people who lived there?

5. How do we know, what we know, about the IVC?

6. How did they use technology to interact with the environment to improve their quality of life?

7. What evidence exists of long-distance trade and with whom?

Crash Course #3: Mesopotamia

Watch this:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sohXPx_XZ6Y&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=3

Answer the following questions:

1. John Green begins by discussing one of the most obvious consequences of agriculture...what is it and what are the most immediate consequences for those societies?

2. Gilgamesh...Rural vs. Urban: explain what John Green is talking about?


4. Why do you think early cities devoted resources to building monumental architecture, like ziggurats?

5. How might the environment of Mesopotamia influence or shape people’s perceptions of their gods?

6. What is the significance of the emergence of palaces? How did kings gain power over priests? How did they keep it?

7. CUNEIFORM: What three points does John Green make about the advent of writing?
   a) 
   b) 
   c) 

8. How did the environment of Mesopotamia shape the economy of the society?

9. What factors led to the downfall of the Mesopotamian city-states and to what effect? (A causes and effects question)

10. What was Hammurabi’s most significant contribution?
Choice 3: Religious Charts are attached.

The influence of major religions and semi-religious philosophies on societies will provide a reoccurring theme throughout the course. Much of this portion of the assignment should be a review of things learned in earlier classes, however, you are required to go into greater depth. It is important for you to be familiar with each religion as we precede. Please follow the directions below:

Step 1. Visit the following websites:

a. BBC Religion and Ethics Website: http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/

b. Infoplease.com Website: http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0113529.html

Step 2. Complete the following chart (attached):

- Symbol – Draw in and name the appropriate symbol for each religion; describe its meaning and significance.
- Founder/Patriarch – Name and describe the historical founder.
- Place and Date of Origin – When and where the religion began, describe the religions’ beginning.
- Holy or Sacred Texts – Make sure to look at the websites carefully, describe the religious text and its main theme.
- Teachings – Summarize the core beliefs and teachings of each religion (ex: Islam’s Five Pillars).
- Role of Women – Explain the accepted role of women in each religion.
## Major Religions of the Pre-Classical Period

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