

## Western Cultures

- COURSE LENGTH:** One semester
- COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** Mr. Tom McGuire Voice mail: 480-2196, ext. 527. E-mail: [mcguiret@jhssac.org](mailto:mcguiret@jhssac.org)
- REQUIRED TEXT/ MATERIALS:** Beck, Black, et al. *Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction*. Dallas: McDougal, Littell Co., 2005.

Students rent this textbook from the Jesuit HS Bookstore. They will receive a copy the first day of class. They are responsible for: covering the text by the second class meeting; keeping the text free of graffiti, doodling and notes/hilighting, and; returning it on final exam day. Students will be assessed for damages that exceed reasonable wear. A lost text will be replaced at the Bookstore's cost.

Students will keep handouts in a 3-ring binder. They should use a single-subject spiral notebook (100 page, college rule) for their class notes. Other materials one will need include blue/black & red pens, pencil, and usual student supplies.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Western Cultures offers a survey of European history from 1450 to the present. The course emphasizes the expansion of the West and those key events which have shaped human existence. Paying special attention to several topics (e.g. resource allocation, economic development, technology, population growth, etc.), the course will attempt to demonstrate the role which culture plays in shaping an individual's world view.

### TOPICS:

The Rise of Democratic Ideas	Global Conflict
The Renaissance & Reformation	The Cold War
Exploration and its Effects	Communism's Collapse & Century's End
Absolute Rule	Repetitions
Enlightenment & Revolution	Final Exam May 19, 2009
Industrial Revolution	

**COURSE METHODOLOGY:** Lecture and discussion with note taking, Audiovisual presentations, Group Activities, Reading and Research, Journal and Essay writing, Study skills development.

**COURSE EVALUATION:** This instructor will administer objective quizzes on a regular basis to check for recall and understanding of assigned readings and daily notes. Unit tests, consisting of both objective questions and essay responses will conclude each major block of material. A comprehensive final will conclude the semester. The final will include both objective and essay responses. Students will choose, develop and complete several projects, of an individual and group nature, from a series of selected topics. Students will use some class time to research and

prepare their projects. Considerable outside preparation time will be necessary.

**CLASSROOM GUIDELINES:** 1. Respect yourself and others. 2. Keep your arms, legs and property to yourself. 3. Always give a task your best effort. 4. Cooperate with other people in class. 5. During independent work, proceed in a quiet manner until your task is completed. 6. Raise your hand if you need help. These guidelines will be enforced firmly, fairly, and in accordance with the Dean's directives (*Student-Parent Handbook*, "Violations of Classroom Discipline, p. 20).

**GRADING:** Course grading is done on a point basis. Every assignment has a point value. At the end of each grading period, the points received are added up and given the weights described below. 100-97 = A+ ; 96-93 = A ; 92-90 = A-; 89-87 = B+ ; 86-83 = B; 82-80 = B-; 79-77 = C+; 76-73 = C ; 72-70 = C- 69-67 = D+; 66-63 = D; 62-60 = D-; 59- 0 = F.

**ASSIGNMENT WEIGHTS:**

Tests & Quizzes .....	25%
Work in Progress (Homework, Class work, Projects) .....	45%
Repetitions .....	10%
Semester Exam (Comprehensive) .....	20%

**HOMEWORK:** Homework assignments may include: study preparation, reading, note copying, map work, writing, etc. Students should complete these assignments thoughtfully, thoroughly, and promptly. Written assignments are normally submitted in either blue or black ink on loose leaf notebook paper. Typewritten copy is also acceptable. Work done in pencil or on paper torn from a spiral notebook will receive no credit. Students should keep the school policy on academic honesty in mind while doing all assignments (*Student-Parent Handbook*, "Cheating," p.18). While a student may not have written homework every night, he will need to spend 30-45 minutes a night reviewing/reading course material.

**NOTE:** The instructors will use educational media, documentary films and commercial motion picture videos to enhance historical context. Some of these selections are unrated and some of the videos carry an 'R' rating (Example: "Schindler's List").

**APPROVED/UNAPPROVED ABSENCES:** Students should read and thoroughly acquaint themselves with school policy as described in the *Student-Parent Handbook* ("Approved/Unapproved Absences," p.21). Regular class attendance is the key to academic success. This instructor will provide makeup work and a revised due date to students with approved absences so course work and participation grades do not suffer. Unapproved absences do not merit the same obligation.

**AVAILABILITY:** This instructor will meet M-F with any student in room AH-2 from 7:30-8:00 AM or by appointment.

