# Horseshoe Bend Middle School

# World History (History 7) Class Syllabus

**2023-24**

**Course Description:**

This course aims to give students a general understanding of the political, economic, and social changes within early civilizations, specifically in the eastern hemisphere. Units will focus on physical and cultural studies of Africa, the Middle East, China, India, Japan, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Oceania. Additionally students will learn the basic foundations of Anthropology and Geography to better understand the role these early civilizations played in shaping the modern world.

**Philosophy for History Education:**

I understand that some students may at first have a difficult time understanding the value of studying events that occurred decades or even centuries in the past, but history is not really dead. This course will help you analyze and understand how the ghosts of the past are still among us, and how they are constantly shaping our present reality. To put it another way, knowledge of our past is a means of explaining the present and it is each student's task to learn how to think, write, and speak logically and critically about these events and to form their own intelligent opinions.

**Methodology:**

Cooperative group work, interactive lectures, videos, slides, multi-media presentations, current events, games, and simulations.

**Adopted Materials and Needed Supplies:**

*World Civilizations,* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.

*World Geography,* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.

**First Semester Timeline**:

Unit 1 –Anthropology 4 weeks

Unit 2 – Geography 4 weeks

Unit 3 -- World Religions 3 weeks

Unit 4 – Africa 6 weeks

**Second Semester Timeline**:

Unit 5 – Southwest Asia 6 weeks

Unit 6 – East Asia 6 weeks

Unit 7 – Oceania and Antarctica 5 weeks

**Teacher Expectations:**

1. Attendance and Tardies

* See Student Handbook for district policy.

2. Seating

* There will be assigned seating.

3. Late Work Policy

* All assignments are due at the end of the day on the date that they are due.
* All late assignments will receive half credit if turned in the day following the original due date. **No assignments will be accepted past this one-day window.**

4. Make-Up Work

* See Student Handbook for district policy.
* Unexcused absences result in a "0".
* It is the student's responsibility to find out on his/her own time what assignments, handouts, activities, and/or instructions were missed and to make arrangements for making up the work.

5. Extra Credit

* Extra credit assignments are not a substitute for required assignments and are available only to those students who have completed **ALL** required assignments and at the instructor’s discretion.

6. Classroom Expectations

* Come to class prepared and ready to learn. Students will not be allowed to leave class during the first or last 15 minutes.
* Cell phones/electronics are **NOT** allowed without express permission from the instructor. A first offense will result in the device being confiscated for the class period and subsequent offenses will be handled in accordance with district policy.
* No hats, hoods, or other head coverings are allowed in class without instructor permission.
* No food or drink (other than water) will be allowed in the classroom without instructor permission.

7. Attitude

* Develop an attitude to learn and an openness to new ideas. You will be in this class approximately 150 days, so you might as well jump on board, have some fun, and learn something about your world, your classmates, and yourself.

8. Behavior

* I have very high behavioral expectations for all students, and while I could list a dozen or more things you should **NOT** do in class, I'm not going to. Because you are responsible young-adults, I will assume you know what appropriate behavior is. If I need to remind you what appropriate behavior is, you can be certain the reminder will be swift and severe.

9. Respect

* The one thing that will land you immediately in my "dog house" is a lack of respect shown for your fellow students or me. I expect this class to be a forum for honest discussion, and I will simply not tolerate a student who makes fun of or intimidates another student.

**Keys to Success:**

1. Read
2. Take notes
3. Ask questions
4. Make it make sense to **YOU**

**Grading System:**

Daily Work - 45%

* Textbook questions, worksheets, discussion participation, current event assignments, journaling, etc.

Unit Tests - 45%

* Approximately four unit tests per semester.

Semester Final Exam - 10%

* Comprehensive.

As you can see, tests make up 55% of the semester grade. This may seem excessive, but your performance on tests is the best method I have to determine if you are learning the material or not. If nothing else, you need to learn to take tests as you will be taking them for the rest of your life in some way, shape or form.

Please sign below acknowledging that you have read this syllabus and agree to follow the classroom rules.

Student’s signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_