

Ethnic Studies World History Syllabus

2024-2025 School Year

Instructor Information

Instructor: Kelly Stevens

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Textbooks:

- **Title:** *World History and Geography: Modern Times*

Authors: Jackson J. Spielvogel and Jay McTighe

Publisher: McGraw Hill Education, 2018

Online Access: [McGraw Hill Education](#)

Overview: This textbook provides a comprehensive overview of global history from the Renaissance to the present day. It covers key events, developments, and figures in world history, with a focus on political, economic, and social changes. The text integrates geography to help students understand how physical landscapes have influenced historical events and cultural exchanges. The material is designed to develop students' critical thinking and analytical skills through a variety of activities, primary source analyses, and assessments.

- **Title:** *A People's History of the World*

Author: Chris Harman

Publisher: Verso, 2008

Overview: This book provides a global perspective on history from the viewpoint of marginalized groups, emphasizing the role of ordinary people in shaping historical events. It serves as a critical supplement to the traditional narratives found in *World History and Geography: Modern Times*.

Course Overview

The Ethnic Studies World History course centers on understanding global history through the perspectives of diverse cultures and marginalized communities. By exploring themes of power, resistance, and identity, students will critically analyze historical events, uncover the interconnectedness of societies, and challenge dominant narratives. Through this lens, students will develop the skills of historians, learning to question, interpret, and understand the complexities of the past and their impact on the present.

Areas of Study

Unit 1: Post-Classical Era (500-1450 CE)

- The Fall of Rome and the Rise of Early Christianity: Examining the influence of Christianity on diverse cultures and its spread across different regions.
- The Byzantine Empire and the Early Middle Ages: Exploring the intersections of Eastern and Western cultures, including the preservation and transmission of knowledge.
- Germanic Kingdoms and the Development of Feudalism: Analyzing the power dynamics and social structures that impacted marginalized groups in medieval Europe.
- The Crusades and the Medieval Church: Investigating the cultural exchanges and conflicts between Christian and Muslim worlds.
- The Bubonic Plague and the Hundred Years' War: Understanding the social and economic impacts on various ethnic communities in Europe.
- The Rise and Spread of Islam: Exploring the cultural, scientific, and philosophical contributions of the Islamic world.
- African Kingdoms and Early American Civilizations: Highlighting the rich histories and achievements of African and Indigenous American societies.
- The Tang, Song, and Ming Dynasties in China: Analyzing the cultural diffusion and innovations that influenced neighboring regions.
- The Mongol Empire and Medieval Japan: Studying the interactions between different cultures and the impact on social structures and identities.

Unit 2: Early Modern Era (1450-1750 CE)

- The Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation: Exploring the cultural rebirth in Europe and its impact on diverse communities.
- European Exploration and Conquest: Examining the consequences of colonization on Indigenous peoples and the resulting cultural exchanges.
- The Spanish Armada and the Thirty Years' War: Analyzing the conflicts between empires and their effects on various ethnic groups.
- The English Civil War and the Rise of Absolutism: Understanding how power struggles affected marginalized communities in Europe and beyond.

Unit 3: Modern Era (1750-1915 CE)

- The Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution: Investigating how these movements challenged traditional power structures and influenced global ideas on race, ethnicity, and human rights.
- The American and French Revolutions: Analyzing the role of diverse groups in the struggle for independence and equality.
- The Napoleonic Wars and the Congress of Vienna: Exploring the impact of European conflicts on colonies and Indigenous peoples.
- The Industrial Revolution and the Rise of Nationalism: Understanding the exploitation of labor and resources in colonized regions and the rise of nationalist movements.
- Imperialism and Nationalist Revolutions in China and Japan: Studying the resistance to Western imperialism and the assertion of cultural identity in Asia.

Unit 4: Postmodern Era (1915-Present)

- World War I and the Treaty of Versailles: Examining the global impact of the war and the redrawing of borders on ethnic communities.
- The Russian Revolution and European Instability: Understanding the effects of revolution and political change on minority groups.
- The Great Depression and the Rise of Fascism: Analyzing how economic crises and authoritarianism affected marginalized communities.
- World War II and the Holocaust: Investigating the experiences of targeted ethnic groups during the war and the consequences of genocide.
- The Cold War and Decolonization: Exploring the struggles for independence and the reassertion of cultural identities in former colonies.
- The Fall of Communism and the Era of Globalization: Understanding the impact of political changes on ethnic minorities and the cultural shifts in a globalized world.
- Contemporary Issues: War on Terror, the Great Recession, and the Shift of Global Power: Examining the ongoing effects of global conflicts, economic instability, and power dynamics on diverse communities.

Course Expectations

- **Weekly Classwork/Independent Practice: 30%**
 - Vocabulary and Conceptual Understanding
 - Daily Assignments and Reflective Journals
 - Cornell Notes and Thematic Analysis
- **Tests/Quizzes: 60%**
 - Daily Quizzes: Multiple-choice questions
 - Unit Tests: 5 comprehensive assessments
- **Participation: 10%**
 - Active Engagement in Class Discussions
 - Group Work and Peer Collaboration
 - School/Community Engagement
 - Current Events

Required Materials

To succeed in this course, students are encouraged to have the following materials:

- An agenda/planner
- Pens, pencils, colored pencils/markers, highlighters
- A 5-Star or Mead college-ruled notebook for vocabulary, notes, and reflections.
- A Chromebook or other device for accessing online resources