

# **8<sup>th</sup> Grade World History**

## **2018-2019 Course Syllabus – Mr. Carbonell**

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**“History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes.” – Mark Twain...?**

The quote above has traditionally been credited to American author Mark Twain. Interestingly enough, there is no evidence that Mark Twain ever spoke or wrote these words. Even still, when a New York Times columnist published this quote and attributed it to Mark Twain in 2011 the myth stuck.

Welcome to World History! The subject that reveals a lot about who we are as a society and as individuals; the subject that shows us that while we can change the world around us, we can't always change the way people are. Throughout the year we will be diving into the known and unknown history of humanity. We will be viewing the world around us by exploring the world as it was up to 10,000 years ago. To do so we'll be studying writing, art, and sometimes even music. We'll see what experts have to say about our past and we'll debate their ideas and our own just like the experts do. In an age where a universe of information is at our fingertips, it's more important than ever to know how to discern fact from fiction and how to think critically and independently. Just because the internet said Mark Twain wrote it, doesn't mean he really did!

*It's going to be an intense year of study, discussion, and reflection...  
but you're more than ready for the challenge!*

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### **Course Overview**

The goal is to cover one unit per grading period! We will follow a modified pace to that of an AP Ancient World History class!

**Unit 1: The Ancient Era (pre-history – circa 600 BC)**

**Unit 2: The Classical Era (c. 600 BC – 600 AD)**

**Unit 3: The Postclassical Era (c. 600 BC – 1450)**

**Unit 4: The Early Modern Era (c. 1450 – 1750)**

## Sample Topics

- Agricultural Revolution
  - Ancient River Valley Civilizations
  - Greek city-states
  - Judaism and the Israelites
  - The Roman Empire
  - Start and impact of Christianity
  - Bantu Migrations in Africa
  - Rise and spread of Islam
  - The Middle Ages of Europe
  - Tsarist Russia
  - Feudal Japan
  - Mongol Empire
  - Renaissance Period
  - Ottoman Empire
  - Mesoamerica
  - China's many dynasties
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## Grading

In accordance with school policy, grades will be divided as follows:

Homework –	15%
Classwork –	25%
Quizzes –	25%
Tests –	35%

*Quizzes:* Cover a short range of topics and will rarely exceed 20 multiple choice questions.

*Tests:* Cover a wide range of topics and will include multiple choice and short answer questions. Number of questions will vary due to combination of question types.

### Important Note

There are 4 assessments (2T/2Q) scheduled for each grading period, with the exception of the third grading period which has 6 (3T/3Q). This means that 60% of your grade each period is decided by 4 (or 6) assessments; take these seriously. *Extra credit will only be available in assessments.*

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## Attendance

Falling behind in any history course can snowball into a massive load. There is simply too much information to be able to efficiently make up for large amounts of lost time. Due to this fact, attendance will be taken very seriously in this class.

1. You must have an excused absence or tardy in order to receive full credit for any missed assignments.
2. You will be given as many days as you missed in order to make up work. After this period is up you will be given an F in the gradebook for any missed work. No exceptions!
3. Per Miami-Dade County policy: Excessive tardiness and/or unexcused absences may result in loss of class credit!

*It is your responsibility to check Archie for any missed homework assignments and to check in with your peers to catchup on any notes and classwork that you may have missed.*

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## Late Work and Gradebook Errors

Per school policy, students will have only one additional class to turn in late work with a penalty of one letter grade. No exceptions.

If there is an error in the gradebook it is your responsibility as students to detect and attempt to get them fixed as early as possible. **Do not expect a resolution to all of your grade problems on the last week of the grading period.** Be proactive.

*"I am one teacher with over 100 students. You are one student with less than 10."*

## Classroom Procedures

*"Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment." – Jim Rohn*

1. Quietly be seated in assigned seat before the bell.
2. Respect diverse points of views and beliefs. *Respectfully disagreeing with and challenging ideas that you do not agree with is not only acceptable, it is encouraged.*
3. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.
4. Do not disrupt any ongoing class activities.
5. No chewing gum or eating in class. Drinks in personal containers are acceptable but must remain on the floor.
6. At the end of each class: Make sure to copy homework in your agenda and have all necessary handouts before leaving. Patiently wait for teacher to dismiss you from class. Clean up your area by picking up trash and fixing desks and chairs.

*Failure to follow these procedures will result in proper disciplinary action.*

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## Rules and Consequences

Please refer to the student handbook and student code of conduct for detailed explanations of proper school behavior. All class, school and district policies will be strictly upheld. In addition, all violations of these policies will be addressed in line with school disciplinary policy.

Students who violate any rules, procedures, or policies will only receive one verbal warning. Repeat violations will result in a conduct cut in addition to school and district disciplinary measures. Receiving a conduct cut means your conduct grade drops a full letter grade.

Note: Consistently good and exemplary behavior can help repair your conduct grade back to an A as long as you have a C or better. *Do not make the mistake of believing you are entitled to an opportunity to repair a bad conduct grade, the best way to have an A in conduct is to follow school rules at all times.*

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## Getting in Contact

The best method to contact me outside of class is via email. Feel free to email me any questions, comments, concerns, or even interesting resources you may find throughout the year.

[mrcarbonellamc@gmail.com](mailto:mrcarbonellamc@gmail.com)

*I will do my best to respond to all emails within 24 hours.*

I will also be available before and after school, and briefly between blocks. It might be tricky to track me down and I can't promise I will be able to give you the time you need unless a meeting is prearranged!

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## A Little History of the World

All students will be required to own a copy of the book *A Little History of the World* by E. H. Gombrich. This book will supplement class content throughout the school year and students will be given a variety of assignments on it. In addition, assessments may be peppered with extra credit questions based on chapters that have already been covered in class!

Only physical copies are permitted in class. Paperback copies can be bought at under \$6.

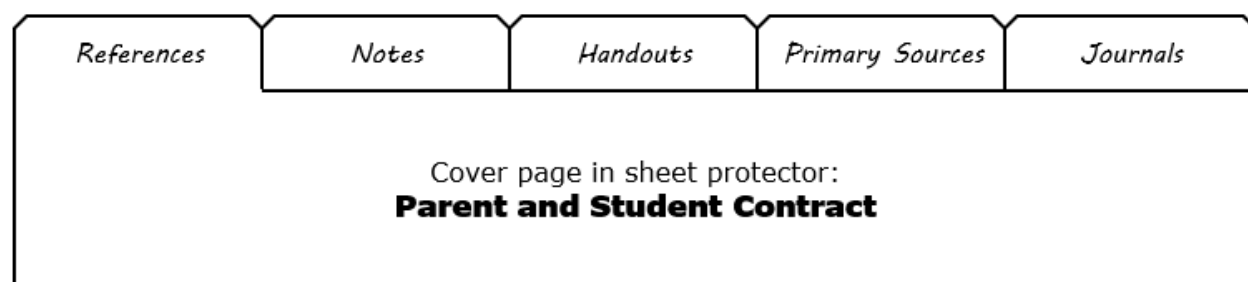
## Preparation and Organization

History tends to get messy and chaotic without a system of organization. Throughout the year you will be receiving lots of handouts, so it's important to know where to keep them. There will be both announced and unannounced binder checks throughout the year!

### Required Materials

- *A Little History of the World* by E. H. Gombrich
- Minimum 1-inch 3-ring binder; can't be shared
- 5 dividers
- 1 sheet protector
- Blue/Black ink pen(s)
- Red ink pen
- Highlighters
- College-ruled paper
- #2 mechanical pencil (only for tests)

### Binder Organization




*All tabs will be organized by having the most recent item in the back.*

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*All papers must be headed as follows:*

	<i># - Homeroom</i> <i>Name</i> <i>Date</i>
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### Binder Checks

Your binders will be collected and checked for organization, neatness, and completion. Refer to the Binder Check Rubric for full details on what is expected!

1 <sup>st</sup> Grading Period	Two binder checks on test days, one pop-check.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grading Period	Three binder checks on test days. No pop-check!
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grading Period	Two binder checks on test days, one pop-check.
4 <sup>th</sup> Grading Period	Two binder checks on test days, one pop-check.

## Parent and Student Contract

**Students** – Please sign and turn in only this page before the end of the first week of school. Place the syllabus in the 'Reference' tab of your binders. Your signature indicates that you have read and understand what will be expected of you in this class. Your signature also shows that you are aware of the consequences of failing to adhere by the policy, procedures, rules, and expectations described in the syllabus, student handbook, and student code of conduct.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

*Student signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents** – Your signature indicates that you have reviewed the syllabus with your child and are aware of what is expected of them this school year. It also demonstrates your willingness to support your child throughout the school year as necessary.

Feel free to reach me at any time via email at [mrcarbonellamc@gmail.com](mailto:mrcarbonellamc@gmail.com)

Parent name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_