

In World History, Culture and Geography, students study the major turning points that shaped the modern world including the Enlightenment, industrialization, imperialism, nationalism, political revolutions, the world wars, the Cold War, decolonization, and globalization. By presenting content from multiple perspectives and through diverse primary and secondary source materials, this course provides students with a solid foundation in the history of the modern era and prepares students to be active and informed citizens of the world.

Through critical reading activities, feedback-rich instruction, and application-oriented assignments, students develop their capacity to conduct research, analyze sources, make arguments, and take informed action. In written assignments, students address critical questions about the history of the modern era. In discussion activities, students respond to diverse opinions, take positions, and defend their own claims. Formative and summative assessments provide students — and teachers — with ample opportunities to check in, review, and evaluate students' progress in the course.

This course is built to state standards.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Welcome to Modern World History

- World History in the Modern Era
- Historical Thinking Skills: Historiography and Chronology
- Historical Thinking Skills: Working with Sources
- Wrap-Up: Welcome to Modern World History

Unit 2: Revolutions in Science and Industry

- The Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment
- The Industrial Revolution
- The Industrialized World
- Wrap-Up: Revolutions in Science and Industry

Unit 3: Political Revolutions and the Expansion of Rights

- Democracy and the American and French Revolutions
- Independence in the Americas
- Expanding Rights and Freedoms
- Wrap-Up: Political Revolutions and the Expansion of Rights

Unit 4: Imperialism; Nationalism; and the Great War

- Empires in Asia and the Middle East
- Colonial Empires
- The Lead-Up to War in Europe

- World War I
- Wrap-Up: Imperialism, Nationalism, and the Great War

Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Modern World History since 1917

- Modern World History since 1917
- Historical Thinking Skills: Causation and Interpretation
- Historical Thinking Skills: Writing and Arguing about History
- Wrap-Up: Modern World History since 1917

Unit 7: From One World War to the Next

- Life Between Wars
- The Rise of Totalitarianism
- World War II
- The Impact of Total War
- Wrap-Up: From One World War to the Next

Unit 8: Decolonization, Nation Building, and the Cold War

- Decolonization and New States in Asia and the Middle East
- Decolonization and New States in Africa
- The Politics of the Cold War
- Communism and the End of the Cold War
- Wrap-Up: Decolonization, Nation Building, and the Cold War

Unit 9: Contemporary Issues

- Globalization and the World Economy
- Contemporary Culture: Balancing Tradition and Modernization
- International Cooperation and Conflict
- Wrap-Up: Contemporary Issues

Unit 10: Semester Wrap-Up