World History to the Renaissance Honors traces the development of civilizations around the world from prehistory to the Renaissance.

The course covers major themes in world history, including the development and influence of human-geographic relationships, political and social structures, economic systems, major religions and belief systems, science and technology, and the arts.

Topics covered in this course include the birth of civilizations; the classical civilizations of India, China, Greece, and Rome; the rise of new empires such as the Byzantine; and an examination of civilizations in Africa and North and South America. From there, students journey to the Middle Ages and into the Renaissance.

Honors students perfect their ability to use logic and evidence to create persuasive written arguments and to make connections to evidence from the past through the study of primary source documents. Writing skills are also honed through a spiraled sequence of short analytic pieces.

This course is built to state standards and further informed by standards from the National Council for History Education, the National Center for History in the Schools, and the National Council for Social Studies.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Ancient Mediterranean

- The Birth of Civilizations
- Mesopotamian Civilizations
- The Mediterranean World
- Ancient Egypt
- Ancient Mediterranean Wrap-Up

Unit 2: Ancient Indian and Pacific Oceans

- Ancient Africa
- Civilizations of Early India
- Early Chinese Civilizations
- Ancient Indian and Pacific Oceans Wrap-Up

Unit 3: Classical Mediterranean

- Ancient Greece
- Greek Influences
- Ancient Rome
- Roman Influences
- Golden Age of Islam

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- Classical Mediterranean Wrap-Up

Unit 4: Empires in the Indian and Pacific Oceans

- African Empires
- Empires of India
- Empires of China
- Empires in the Indian and Pacific Ocean Wrap-Up

Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Europe in the Middle Ages

- Byzantine Empire
- Western Europe in the Early Middle Ages
- Crusades and the Rise of National Monarchies in Europe
- The Rise of Russia
- Europe in the Middle Ages Wrap-Up

Unit 7: The Rise of New Empires around the World

- Islamic Empires
- East Asian Civilizations
- Civilizations of the Americas
- The Rise of New Empires around the World Wrap-Up

Unit 8: Breakup of United Christendom

- Prosperity and Crisis in the Late Middle Ages
- The Renaissance
- The Renaissance Moves North
- The Protestant Reformation
- Breakup of United Christendom Wrap-Up

Unit 9: Age of European Expansion

- European Exploration
- Conquest of the Americas
- The Atlantic World
- European Trade in Asia
- Age of European Expansion Wrap-Up

Unit 10: Semester Wrap-Up

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