In World History, students study the major turning points that shaped the modern world including the expansion of Islamic and Asian empires, transoceanic exploration, the Atlantic slave trade, 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 not only provides students with a solid foundation in the history of the modern era, but it also 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 and projects, 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 aligns to the Washington State K-12 Learning Standards for Social Studies.

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: The Rise of the World's First Global Age

- Empires in Asia and the Middle East
- The Transformation of Europe
- Transoceanic Encounters and Global Commerce
- Africa and the Atlantic World
- Wrap Up: The Rise of the World's First Global Age

Unit 3: 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 4: Imperialism and Political Revolutions

- Imperialism and Its Motivations
- Colonial Empires in Africa, India, Indochina, and the South Pacific

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- Revolutions in North America and Europe
- Independence in the Americas
- Expanding Rights and Freedoms
- Wrap Up: Imperialism and Political Revolutions

Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Modern World History since 1914

- Modern World History since 1914
- Historical Thinking Skills: Causation and Interpretation
- Historical Thinking Skills: Writing and Arguing about History
- Wrap-Up: Modern World History since 1914

Unit 7: Global Conflicts and Recoveries

- World War I
- Life Between Wars
- The Rise of Totalitarianism
- World War II
- Wrap-Up: Global Conflicts and Recoveries

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

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