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: Welcome to World History

- What Is World History?
- Historical Thinking Skills: Historiography and Chronology
- Historical Thinking Skills: Evidence and Arguments
- Wrap-Up: Welcome to World History

Unit 2: The Rise of Agriculture and Early Civilizations

- The Rise of Agriculture and Early Civilizations
- The Neolithic Revolution
- Early River Valley Civilizations
- Daily Life in Early Civilizations
- Wrap-Up: The Rise of Agriculture and Early Civilizations

Unit 3: Classical Era Civilizations and World Religions

- Classical Era Civilizations and World Religions
- Classical Civilizations of Persia, Greece, and Rome
- Art, Empire, and Trade in China and India
- The Development of Major World Religions
- Classical Era Civilizations of Africa and the Americas

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- Wrap-Up: Classical Era Civilizations and World Religions

Unit 4: Regional and Transregional Interactions

- Regional and Transregional Interactions
- Commerce and Exchange in Afro-Eurasia
- New Empires on the Rise
- Europe after the Fall of Rome
- The Aztec and Inca Empires
- Wrap-Up: Regional and Transregional Interactions

Unit 5: The Rise of the World's First Global Age

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

Unit 6: Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 7: World History: 1750 to the Present

- World History in the Modern Era
- Historical Thinking Skills: Causation and Contextualization
- Historical Thinking Skills: Interpretation and Synthesis
- Wrap-Up: World History: 1750 to the Present

Unit 8: Revolutions in Science and Industry

- Revolutions in Science and Industry
- New Approaches to Science and Philosophy
- The Industrial Revolution
- Life in Industrialized Society
- Wrap-Up: Revolutions in Science and Industry

Unit 9: Imperialism, Nationalism, and Political Revolutions

- Imperialism, Nationalism, and Political Revolutions
- An Era of Imperialism
- The American and French Revolutions
- Independence in the Americas
- Legacies of the Revolutions
- Wrap-Up: Imperialism, Nationalism, and Political Revolutions

Unit 10: Global Conflicts and Recoveries

- Global Conflicts and Recoveries
- The First World War
- Life Between Wars
- The Second World War

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- The Impact of Total War
- Wrap-Up: Global Conflicts and Recoveries

Unit 11: Globalization and the World Today

- Globalization and the World Today
- Independence in Asia and Africa
- Communism and the Cold War
- The Middle East and Islam in the Modern Era
- Global Problems and Solutions
- Wrap-Up: Globalization and the World Today

Unit 12: Semester Wrap-Up

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