

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY

TOPEKA HIGH SCHOOL

2009-2010

INSTRUCTOR: *Sam L. Schumann*

## Course Description

### PURPOSE

This course covers the expanse of European history ranging from the Middle Ages to the Present. It is a college-level survey course that allows high school students to pursue and receive credit for not only high school credit, but college credit as well. The curriculum, materials, and expectations are all designed to meet these ends. The national exam will determine an individual student's ability to receive college credit or advanced placement.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Placement European History is designed to foster student development of analytical skills and the factual foundations necessary to examine critically the issues and events in European history. Students will learn to analyze and interpret a variety of historical resources and develop the skills needed to utilize documentary materials, maps, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historic events and culture. As a result, it will be vital that students are able to express themselves with clarity and precision.

### THEMES

The following themes will be examined during this academic year long course:

#### **1. Intellectual and Cultural History**

- Changes in religious thought and institutions
- The rise of secularization of learning and culture
- Scientific and technological developments and their effects
- Major trends in arts and literature
- Intellectual and cultural developments and their relationship to social values and political events
- Developments in social, economic, and political thought
- Developments in literacy, education, and communication
- The diffusion of new intellectual concepts among different social groups
- Changes in elite and popular culture, such as the development of new attitudes toward religion, the family, work, and ritual
- Impact of global expansion on European culture

#### **2. Political and Diplomatic History**

- The rise and functioning of the modern state in its various forms
- Relations between Europe and other parts of the world: colonialism, imperialism, decolonization, and global interdependence
- The evolution of the political elite and the development of political parties and ideologies
- The extension and limitation of rights and liberties (personal, civic, economic, and political); including majority and minority political persecutions
- The development and changing forms of nationalism and jingoism
- Forms of political protest, including reform, and revolution
- The interdependence between domestic and foreign policies
- Efforts to restrain conflict: treaties, balance-of-power diplomacy, and international organizations
- War and civil conflict: origins, developments, technology, and their consequences

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## **3. Social and Economic History**

- The role of urbanization in transforming cultural values and social relationships
- The shift in social structures from hierarchical orders to modern social classes: the changing distribution of wealth and poverty
- The influence of sanitation and health care practices on society; food supply, diet, famine, disease, and their impact
- The development of commercial practices and their economic and social impact
- Changing definitions and attitudes toward mainstream groups and groups characterized as "the other"
- The origins, development, and consequences of industrialization
- Changes in the demographic structure of Europe, their causes and consequences
- Gender roles and their influence on work, social structure, family structure, and interest group formation
- Private and state roles in economic activity
- Development of racial and ethnic group identities