

Honors Modern World Studies

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this comprehensive survey of world history from prehistoric to modern times, students focus in depth on the developments and events that have shaped civilization across time. The course is organized chronologically and, within broad eras, regionally. Lessons address developments in religion, philosophy, the arts, science and technology, and political history. The course also introduces geography concepts and skills within the context of the historical narrative. Online lessons and assessments complement World History: Our Human Story, a textbook written and published by K¹². Students are challenged to consider topics in depth as they analyze primary sources and maps, create timelines, and complete other projects—practicing historical thinking and writing skills as they explore the broad themes and big ideas of human history.

PREREQUISITES: Middle school Intermediate World History A and B, or equivalent, success in previous social studies course, and a teacher/school counselor recommendation.

COURSE LENGTH: Two Semesters

REQUIRED TEXT: The Human Odyssey: From Modern Times to Our Contemporary Era

MATERIALS LIST: No required materials for this course

COURSE OUTLINE:

Semester 1

Unit 1: Setting the Stage—Before 1850

- Semester Introduction
- Early Seeds of Democracy
- Judeo-Christian Influences on Democratic Thought
- Expanding Rights in England
- Democratic Ideals Emerge
- Democratic Ideals Flourish
- Documents of Liberty
- A Revolution in Industry
- Romanticism: A Creative Revolution

Unit 2: Europe and the Second Industrial Revolution

- The Challenges of Industrialization
- Solutions
- Classes
- Geography Plays a Part
- Industry and the Rise of Germany
- Germany Moves Ahead
- The Impact of the Second Industrial Revolution
- A Demographic Look at Western Europe

Unit 3: The New Age in Asia

- Modernization and the Rise of Japan
- Powerhouse in Asia
- In East Asia
- Earthshaking
- Imperialism in Asia
- Strife in China
- Nationalism in China
- Where in the World

Unit 4: World War and Revolution

- Igniting the Powder Keg
- Europe Goes to War
- The War Goes On
- Total War
- A War for Minds and Hearts
- Propaganda
- Geography of Russia
- Unrest in Russia
- From Russia to USSR
- Challenges of Geography
- War's Tide Turns
- War's End
- What Kind of Peace?

Unit 5: Between Wars

- The Art of Uncertainty
- Certainties Challenged
- A World in Flux
- Nationalism and Islamism in the Middle East
- Forging Nations in the Middle East
- Report from the Middle East
- Geography of Borders
- Desperate Times and Communism
- Desperate Times and Fascism
- Power Above All

Unit 6: Another World War

- The Road to War
- Global War
- Leadership
- Qualities of a Leader
- Strategies for Victory
- Horror
- Victory
- Difficult Decisions
- Graphing World War II Statistics
- Personal Views of War
- Putting It into Words
- Never Again
- A New Path
- A Woman for All Times

Unit 7: Significant Times

- Looking Back, Part 1
- Looking Back, Part 2
- Looking Back, Part 3
- Looking Back, Part 4

- Looking Back, Part 5

Unit 8: Semester Review and Test

Semester 2

Unit 1: Tensions in the Post-War World

- Semester Introduction
- Cold War in the West
- Cold War in the East
- Continuing Tension
- Containing Communism
- China Under Mao
- Communism in the Americas
- On the Brink
- Crisis
- Making a Case

Unit 2: Many Kinds of Revolution

- Revolutions in Technology
- Discuss: Space Exploration
- Saving Lives
- A New Global Culture
- Geography of South Asia
- India and a Man of Peace
- Paths to Independence
- For Their Countries
- Strife in the Middle East
- Wars for Religion and Resources
- Peace Work

Unit 3: Cold War Conflict and Conclusion

- Geography of Southeast Asia
- The United States in Vietnam
- The Soviet Union in Czechoslovakia

- Vying for Latin America
- Geography of Latin America
- Rainforest in Peril
- Cracks in the Wall
- Voices for Change
- The End of the Cold War

Unit 4: Issues for the Twenty-First Century

- The Rise of Terrorism in the Middle East
- Extremists Take Control
- A Dictator in Iraq
- Terrorism Strikes the United States
- The Iraq War
- Difficult Questions
- Electronics and the Information Revolution
- New Ways to Communicate
- A Shrinking World
- Seeking Equality
- Democracy's Continued Spread
- Steps Forward and Steps Back
- Epilogue

Unit 5: Challenges for the Twenty-First Century

- Growing Wealth
- Assessing Wealth
- Asia Rising—India
- Asia Rising—China
- Persistent Poverty
- Migrations
- The Meaning of Globalization
- Following a Global Product
- Women and Globalization
- The Price of Progress
- Fueling Progress

- Viewpoints
- Where Do You Stand?
- Persuasion

Unit 6: Research Project

- Your Case Study
- Using the Internet
- Research, Part 1
- Research, Part 2
- Research, Part 3
- Research, Part 4
- Research, Part 5
- Research, Part 6
- Research, Part 7
- Research, Part 8
- Research to Presentation
- The Presentation, Part 1
- The Presentation, Part 2

Unit 7: Semester Review and Test

Unit 8: Honors Project

- Modern World Studies Honors Project, Part 1
- Modern World Studies Honors Project, Part 2
- Modern World Studies Honors Project, Part 3
- Modern World Studies Honors Project, Part 4
- Modern World Studies Honors Project, Part 5
- Modern World Studies Honors Project, Part 6