

IB 20th Century World History

Standard Level Year One: 2010-2011

Teacher: Ms. Roselander

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## PURPOSE

As the IB subject guide so eloquently states, “history is more than the study of the past...it is a discipline that gives people an understanding of themselves and others in relation to the world, both past and present.” With this in mind, I see the purpose of this course as both a vehicle to prepare each of you to do well on your IB exams as well as to reach a greater understanding of our selves and the complex world in which we live.

## BELIEFS

1. Studying the past has relevance in understanding the world we have inherited.
2. There is no one “accepted” account of past events, and historians (that includes you!) must continually analyze and evaluate multiple forms of historical evidence to piece together an understanding of “what really happened.”
3. The skills necessary to work with a range of historical evidence also help us to be better consumers of information in our daily lives.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. Why study history?

2. Is our knowledge of the past ever completely certain?
3. To what extent can history be studied and written about objectively?
4. How far does the study of history widen our knowledge of human nature?
5. How does change occur?

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and integrate source material critically as historical evidence.
2. Demonstrate historical understanding of 20th century world history through the acquisition, selection, effective use and synthesis of knowledge.
3. Explain different approaches to, and interpretations of historical events and topics.
4. Place events in their historical context.
5. Explain the causes and effects of historical continuity and change.
6. Present arguments that are clear, coherent, relevant and well-substantiated.
7. Present historical explanations from an international perspective.
8. Plan, organize and present an individual historical investigation.

## CONTENT

This is the first year of a two-year course. This course is not a traditional survey history course in which all topics are given equal emphasis. We will be conducting in-depth studies on selected subjects and topics of the 20th Century. They Include:

## 1. The Rise and Rule of Single Party States (Paper 2/Topic 3)

The 20th century produced many single-party states. The origins, ideology, form of government, organization, and impact of these will be studied. Specific Paper 2 topics will include the rise and rule of the following (for study first year):

1. Stalin/USSR
2. Hitler/Germany
3. Mao/China

Dictators for year two include:

1. Castro/Cuba

## 2. The Cold War (Paper 2/Topic 5)

This topic addresses East–West relations from 1945. It aims to promote an international perspective and understanding of the origins, course and effects of the Cold War—a conflict that dominated global affairs from the end of the Second World War to the early 1990s. It includes superpower rivalry and events in all areas affected by Cold War politics such as spheres of interest, wars (proxy), alliances and interference in developing countries.

## 3. Prescribed subject 3: Communism in crisis 1976-89 (Paper 1 /Subject 3)

This prescribed subject addresses the major challenges—social, political and economic—facing the regimes in the leading socialist (Communist) states from 1976 to 1989 and the nature of the response of these regimes. In some cases challenges, whether internal or external in origin, produced responses that inaugurated a reform process contributing significantly to the end of the USSR and the satellite states in

Central and Eastern Europe. In other cases repressive measures managed to contain the challenge and the regime maintained power in the period.

ASSESSMENT/Student grades will be based on the following:

1. Written Assignments/Homework (25%)
2. Tests (40%)
3. Quizzes (25%)
4. In-Class Work/Participation (15%)

1. 4th Quarter, The Internal Assessment will account for this 15%.

## SUPPLIES

1. 1-inch three-ring binder: this is required as your “working notebook” while at school. Make sure you keep blank loose-leaf notebook paper in the back of it for notes.
2. Highlighters are useful tools to mark significant passages when analyzing written primary documents in class.
3. Flash disk / thumb drive: at least 64mb. While not required, a thumb drive is extremely useful for storing and transporting computer data for the research papers and other class assignments.

## CLASSROOM CULTURE

Above all, our classroom culture will be built around the principle of mutual respect. Hey, they call it the golden rule for a reason. I cannot overstate the importance of informing every interaction we have with each other in this classroom with respect. Let me tell you what that means to me:

1. We listen to each other. Participation in class discussion relies just as heavily upon active listening as it does sharing.

2. We respect differences in opinion, and explore these differences through productive debate.
3. This classroom will be a place in which each individual feels comfortable to express themselves.
4. There will be zero tolerance for any actions that endanger this classroom culture. Harassing, belittling or disrespectful behavior of any kind is completely unacceptable and will be dealt with immediately.

I see your time as valuable, and will strive to make this class the best use of it I can, but in the end, how much you will get out of this course is your personal choice.

## EXTRA HELP

Please know that I am here as a resource to help you learn and succeed in this class. Please feel free to ask questions and seek extra help if needed. I am available during lunch, and if you need to meet before or after school, please let me know, and I will make time.

## A WORD ABOUT ManageBac...

Is this a phrase/concept you have heard before? ManageBac will be a very important tool for all of us this year; it will be where all assignments are posted and also where they will be submitted back to me. For an organizationally impaired individual such as myself, it will be a VERY good thing to have everything in one place, and I think it will be helpful for us all. Wondering if you have homework? The mystery has been removed for you....check ManageBac!! I could go on and on, but I think you get the point. ☺