

World History A

Mr. Ray
2011-2012

Welcome! Mr. Ray is beginning his first year of teaching, and cannot be happier to be spending it at Hamilton High School. He has a true passion for what he teaches, and hopes that he can share his excitement with his students.

Content

World History A will cover roughly 2000 years of history in 10 short weeks. Although this will be a whirlwind of information, the content will flow naturally through several different topics.

- Rise and Fall of Ancient Civilizations – Greece, Rome, and Han China
- World Religions – Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- Africa and Post Han China - Interregional interactions
- The Middle Ages – Byzantine Empire, Christian divide, Feudalism, Germanic tribes
- The Expanding World – The Americas, Exploration, Slave Trade
- New World Order – Renaissance, Reformation, Revolution

We will study topics both chronologically as well as based on various themes, depending on the unit. Each day's notes will be available on my SchoolFusion page. The address is in the contact information at the bottom of the syllabus.

Measurements of Success

World History will be taught on a standards based system. These standards are directly correlated to the Michigan High School State Standards. Each unit will be broken up into roughly 10 standards each, for a total of 50 standards. The goal of these standards is to provide a more accessible view into what is expected out of each high school student. The standards for individual units will be posted on my SchoolFusion page at the beginning of the unit. Each test will be broken down into both a letter grade, as well as a level of proficiency. The following is an example of the standards:

Standard	Proficient	Not Yet	Unsatisfactory
1. I can describe economic, political, and social characteristics of Greek society.			

Along with standards, the letter grade system will work on the following scale

100-95%	A
94-90%	A-
89-87%	B+
86-83%	B
82-80%	B-
79-77%	C+
76-73%	C
72-70%	C-
69-67%	D+

66-63%	D
62-60%	D-
59%-	E

Classroom Expectations

Above all else, I expect each and every student, to the best of his or her ability, to come into class with a positive attitude and an open mind towards learning. While none of us are perfect, I simply ask that we start fresh each day with a “can do” attitude. With this in mind, I will not tolerate any behavior or attitudes that disrupt the learning process for anyone. All behavior that does not contribute towards the classroom’s goals for the day will be dealt with in a consistent and appropriate manner. Luckily, I know we will not have a problem with the fine citizens of Hamilton High School.

Please refer to your student handbook in regards to all specific behavior and attendance policies.

Contact Mr. Ray

I can be reached at any time during the trimester. If you or your parents ever have questions, please refer to the following contact information.

Phone (school)	Ext. 535
Phone (home)	By request from parent
Email (parent)	mray@hamiltonschools.us
Email (student)	askmrray@gmail.com
Website	http://ray.hamiltonschools.us

I am very excited to see where this trimester takes us. Study hard, and don’t be afraid to ask questions!

“History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future.”

Robert Penn Warren – Pulitzer Prize winner