

Syllabus

World History Since 1500 B

Course Overview

The events of the last 500 years have significantly shaped how humans live. The Renaissance and Reformations in Europe radically changed how people think and perceive authority figures. The rise of Industrialization and Nationalism served as a backdrop for changes in how we perceive basic human rights. The Civil War and World War I changed the way we view warfare. Asia and Africa were severely and diversely affected by European imperialism. The World Wars and Cold War of the 1900s reached every nation on Earth, impacting their societies forever. The events that took place during these 500 years are sometimes inspiring and sometimes alarming, but fascinating all the same.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Describe the aftermath of World War I.
- Define and distinguish Fascism, Nazism, Communism, and totalitarianism.
- Explain the impact of the political, economic, social, and cultural policies of Stalinism on the people of the Soviet Union.
- Explain the economic and political causes for World War II.
- Explain the background of the Holocaust, including the long tradition of German anti-Semitism and Nazi dehumanization of Jews.
- Evaluate the decision to drop atom bombs on Japan.
- Explain the strategies of the Cold War and how it came to an end.
- List the causes of the Korean War and the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- Explain the causes for the Vietnam War.
- Summarize the factors that led to decolonization movements in Africa.
- Analyze the AIDS epidemic in Africa.
- Identify Arabs, Sunnis, Shiites, and Jews.
- Identify important issues of conflict in the Middle East.
- Describe Saddam Hussein's actions in Iraq since 1979.
- Account for the economic success of Japan and Korea.
- Explain how Latin America became increasingly connected to the global market in the 20th century.
- Evaluate the Global War on Terror as a response to militant Islam.
- Explain why the world population is increasing and how a larger population affects the world.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Some course readings may require a visit to the school library or public library.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

World History Since 1500 B is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- Notebook
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you keep on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
7 days: 2–8	<p>Aftermath of War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify the major provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I, including German reparations and loss of territory.</i> • <i>Describe post-war economic and political instability in the German Weimar republic.</i> • <i>Describe the establishment of the protectorates of Palestine, Transjordan, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.</i> • <i>Describe how the Ottoman Empire was transformed into a secular, nationalist Turkish state and how war between Greece and Turkey led to mutual expulsions from both countries.</i> • <i>Understand the growing importance of oil fields in the Middle East and in the western U.S. to world politics and the world economy.</i> • <i>Describe international attempts to prevent wars, such as the Kellogg-Briand Pact, disarmament, and the League of Nations.</i> • <i>List the events of the Bolshevik Revolution, including the Russian Civil War, Lenin's New Economic Policy, and the international Communist movement.</i> • <i>Evaluate how the Russian Revolution differed from the American Revolution, and evaluate their causes, results, and long-term impact on political developments around the world.</i> 	Lesson
8 days: 9–16	<p>Depression and the Rise of Totalitarianism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Define and distinguish between Fascism, Nazism, Communism, and totalitarianism.</i> • <i>Explain how the world depression contributed to the rise of totalitarianism, including the rise of Nazism/Fascism in Germany and Italy and the rise of Stalinism in the Soviet Union.</i> • <i>Summarize the main ideas, policies, and worldwide influence of Benito Mussolini, Joseph Stalin, and Adolf Hitler.</i> • <i>Explain the impact of the political, economic, social, and cultural policies of Stalinism on the people of the Soviet Union.</i> • <i>Analyze the implementation of the New Deal as a response to world crisis and the rise of socialism, Communism, and machine politics in the United States.</i> 	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
8 days: 17–24	<p>The World at War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explain the economic and political causes for World War II.</i> • <i>Describe the Japanese invasion of China and the Rape of Nanking.</i> • <i>Describe Germany’s militarization of the Rhineland, annexation of Austria, and aggression against Czechoslovakia; the Stalin-Hitler Pact of 1939; and the German attack on Poland.</i> • <i>Summarize the key battles and events, including the German invasion of Poland, Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Midway, Stalingrad, D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.</i> • <i>Identify major leaders and their roles in World War II: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, and Adolf Hitler.</i> • <i>Explain the background and course of the Holocaust, including the long tradition of German anti-Semitism and Nazi dehumanization of Jews.</i> • <i>Evaluate the decision to drop atom bombs on Japan and its short- and long-term effects.</i> • <i>Explain the consequences of World War II, including physical and economic destruction, and the enormous loss of life, including civilians.</i> 	Lesson
8 days: 25–32	<p>The Cold War 1945–1970</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Compare and contrast capitalism and the free market system with Communism.</i> • <i>Define the term Iron Curtain and how it relates to the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan.</i> • <i>Explain the strategies of the Cold War, including the domino theory and mutual assured destruction.</i> • <i>Explain the purposes of the following: the United Nations, NATO, and the Warsaw Pact.</i> • <i>List the causes and effects of the Korean War and the Cuban Missile Crisis.</i> • <i>Describe how the Cold War affected human rights around the world, including civil rights in the U.S.</i> • <i>Explain the causes for the Vietnam War, its events, and the effect it had on different countries.</i> 	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
8 days: 33–40	<p>Africa After 1945</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify the long-term political and economic effects of European colonialism on Africa.</i> • <i>Summarize the factors that led to decolonization movements in Africa.</i> • <i>Describe independence movements in Africa, especially those in Nigeria, the Congo, and South Africa.</i> • <i>Identify the importance of apartheid and its demise.</i> • <i>Analyze the causes and effects of the AIDS epidemic in Africa.</i> • <i>Describe the economic challenges that Africa faces today.</i> 	Lesson
2 days: 41–42	<p>Apartheid and International Sanctions</p>	Lab
1 day: 43	<p>Midterm</p>	Assessment
8 days: 44–51	<p>The Middle East 1940–1979</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify Arabs, Sunnis, Shiites, and Jews.</i> • <i>Locate countries on a map of the Middle East, including Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Israel, and Saudi Arabia.</i> • <i>Define the ideologies of Wahhabism and Zionism.</i> • <i>Identify the importance of Gamal Abdel Nasser in the rise of pan-Arabism.</i> • <i>Describe the first Arab independence movements and governments, including Algerian independence.</i> • <i>Describe the events and ideologies that led to the creation of Israel and Arab opposition to it.</i> • <i>Trace the growing importance of petroleum to the region and how it affects relations with other countries.</i> • <i>List the wars of Arab countries against Israel and their results.</i> • <i>Describe early U.S. involvement in the region, including support of Saudi Arabia and the shah of Iran.</i> • <i>Explain the motives and methods of non-state entities such as Haganah and Irgun and the PLO.</i> 	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
8 days: 52–59	<p>The Middle East Since 1979</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Locate key countries such as Iran, Afghanistan, and Iraq on a map of the Middle East.</i> • <i>Identify key figures in the Iranian Revolution, including Ayatollah Khomeini and Muhammad Reza Shah.</i> • <i>Explain how the Iranian Revolution and the mujahideen in Afghanistan relate to militant Islam.</i> • <i>Describe Saddam Hussein's actions in Iraq since 1979.</i> • <i>Explain why the United States has become increasingly involved in the Middle East, especially the 1991 Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and the Iraq War of 2003.</i> • <i>Explain the United States' relations with repressive governments in the Middle East.</i> • <i>Evaluate the Global War on Terror so far and its prospects for the future.</i> 	Lesson
7 days: 60–66	<p>Asia Since 1945</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Describe the partition of India and Pakistan and the continued dispute over Kashmir.</i> • <i>Evaluate the effects of Jawaharlal Nehru and Mother Teresa on modern India.</i> • <i>Explain initiatives of Mao Zedong, including the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.</i> • <i>Identify areas of conflict in Asia, including Sri Lanka and Cambodia.</i> • <i>Account for the economic success of Japan and the East Asian Tigers, such as Korea.</i> • <i>Evaluate China's response to the events of Tiananmen Square in 1989.</i> • <i>Evaluate China's and India's moves into free-market capitalism and world trade.</i> 	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
7 days: 67–73	<p>Modern Latin America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how Latin America became increasingly connected to the global market in the 20th century. • Summarize why the United States became increasingly involved in the domestic affairs of Latin American countries. • List the causes and results of the Mexican Revolution. • Explain how nationalism extended through Latin American countries politically, socially, and economically. • Describe how industrialization, population growth, urbanization, and other post–World War II trends created a distinct social structure with a large disparity between the rich and poor. • Describe efforts for increased democracy in Latin American countries as well as the role of the Catholic Church in pushing such democratic initiatives. • Assess how the countries of Latin America are involved in international affairs today. 	Lesson
7 days: 74–80	<p>Europe and the U.S. Since 1970</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how the Vietnam War changed U.S. Cold War strategies. • Define the term proxy war and give at least three examples. • Explain how the Cold War ended and the Berlin Wall fell. • Evaluate the changes in European society since 1970. • Describe the economic challenges facing the U.S. and Europe today. • Evaluate the Global War on Terror as a response to militant Islam. 	Lesson
2 days: 81–82	<p>Dissent and the Cold War</p>	Lab
6 days: 83–88	<p>Global Growth and Global Crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why the world population is increasing and how a larger population affects the world. • Define globalization, and identify the technologies and legal agreements that make new global trade different from earlier trade. • Evaluate the positive and potentially negative effects of the new global trade. • Define the purpose of the WTO, and describe how its powers challenge national sovereignty. • Evaluate the cultural, political, and economic effects of the Internet. • Explain what factors cause climate change and why scientists are concerned. 	Lesson

Day	Activity/ <i>Objective</i>	Type
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	Final Exam	Assessment