



New York Mills High School

Curriculum Document

Curriculum Area: Social Studies

Course Name: World History and Geography I

Common Course Catalog Number: 04052

Length of Course: 1 semester

Pre-Requisite: U.S. History

Grade Level: 12

Course Description: The first semester of World History and Geography (WHG) focuses on world history from the prehistoric period all the way to the Renaissance. You will see the birth and the development of Western and Eastern civilizations, as well as the early civilizations of the Americas before Europeans from the West discovered them. The course will also focus on geography where we will use several geographical tools to analyze various parts of the world during the time periods in which we are studying.

Essential Learner Outcomes (5 to 7)

History

- 1. The student will understand that environmental changes and human adaptation enabled human migration from Africa to other parts of the world.**
- 2. The student will understand that the emergence of domestication and agriculture facilitated the development of complex societies and caused far reaching social and cultural effects.**
- 3. The student will understand that the development of interregional systems of communication and trade facilitated new forms of social organization and new belief systems.**

4. The student will understand that hemispheric networks intensified as a result of innovations in agriculture, trade across longer distances, the consolidation of belief systems and the development of new multi-ethnic empires while diseases and climate change caused sharp, periodic fluctuations in global population.

5. The student will understand that new connections between the hemispheres resulted in the “Columbian Exchange,” new sources and forms of knowledge, development of the first truly global economy, intensification of coerced labor, increasingly complex societies and shifts in international balance of power.

Geography

1. The student will understand that people use geographic representations and geospatial technologies to acquire, process and report information within a spatial context.

2. The student will understand that geographic inquiry is a process in which people ask geographic questions and gather, organize and analyze information to solve problems and plan for the future.

3. The student will understand that places have physical characteristics (such as climate, topography, and vegetation) and human characteristics (such as culture, population, political and economic systems).

4. The student will understand that people construct regions to identify, organize and interpret areas of the earth’s surface, which simplifies the earth’s complexity.

5. The student will understand that the characteristics, distribution and migration of human populations on the earth’s surface influence human systems (cultural, economic and political systems).

Units of Study:

UNIT 1: THE FIRST CIVILIZATIONS

Chapters include: Time and Space (Geography), Prehistory, Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China, Ancient Greece, and Rome

UNIT 2: NEW CIVILIZATIONS

Chapters include: Rise of Islam (World Religions), African and Asian Civilizations, the Byzantine Empire, the Middle Ages, and the Americas