**World Civilization Syllabus**

**2014-2015 – Mr. Burke**

**Overall Objectives**

* Students will gain a much better understanding of how the history of the Western world has affected our current philosophies and beliefs.
* Students will be able to recognize patterns that seem to reoccur over time.
* Students will learn to support their reasoning with valid examples supported with well-studied and/or researched facts (especially in the area of writing).

**General Supplies:** 3-Ring Binder, loose-leaf paper, pen.

**Textbook:** *World History – Modern Times*  --- We have a class set, and an online version will be placed at www.coachburke.com - you will also find all powerpoints there.

**SOHS Grade Scale:**

A= 90-100% B= 80-89% C= 70-79% F= 69 and Below

1. **Review – Early Civilizations and Middle Ages**
2. Guiding Questions
3. 1. What are the effects of geography on early civilizations, 3000 B.C.E. to 1500 A.D.?

2. How did cultural diffusion improve people's lifestyles?

3. What makes a civilization?

4. What are the lasting contributions of early civilizations?

1. Why did Europe descend into a feudalistic system after the fall of the Roman Empire and how did it function?
2. Why was the rise of Islam significant to the unfolding of events in the Western world?
3. What was the significance of the Church during the Middle Ages and how did it impact the lives of every person living in Western Europe during this time period?
4. **Renaissance and Reformation**

**SS-H.S.-5.3.1-** **Students will explain how humans began to rediscover the ideas of the Classical Age (e.g., humanism, developments in art and architecture, literature, political theories) and to question their place in the universe during the Renaissance and Reformation.**

1. Guiding Questions
2. How did the shift in values that occurred during the Renaissance completely transform the thinking of the Western world?
3. How did the ideas of the Renaissance change the art and architecture of the time?
4. How did shifts in thinking and values that occurred during the Renaissance affect the political thinking of the time?
5. How did the shift in thinking and values that occurred during the Renaissance cause a revolution in the area of religion?
6. How did the Reformation completely change the world today?
7. **Age of Exploration and Absolute Monarchs**
8. Guiding Questions
9. What social, economic, and political impact did the discoveries of new lands by explorers in Western Europe have on both Europe and the rest of the world?
10. How did the re-emergence of trade, a growing middle class, and newly discovered wealth from the new world, contribute to the rise of absolute monarchs and nation states in Western Europe during the 15th and 16th centuries?
11. What was the Divine Right of Kings and how did it dominate political thinking during the this time period?
12. **Revolutions**

**SS-HS-5.3.3- Students will analyze how an age of Revolution brought about changes in science, thought, government, and industry (e.g., Newtonian physics, free trade principles, democratic principles, development of the modern state) that shaped the modern world, and evaluate the long-range impact of these changes on the modern world.**

1. Guiding Questions
   1. What are the fundamental causes of the Scientific, French, American, and Industrial revolutions?
   2. How do these revolutions continue to impact social, political, and economic structures today?
2. **20th Century Socio/economic philosophies, Imperialism, Nationalism, World War I, Bolshevik Revolution, Great Depression, Rise of Fascism, and World War II.**

**SS-HS-5.3.4 Students will analyze how nationalism, militarism and imperialism led to world conflicts and the rise of totalitarian governments (e.g., European imperialism in Africa, World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution, Nazism, and World War II).**

1. Guiding Questions
2. How and why did socialism and communism evolve and what was the impact of their evolution?
3. How did nationalism, militarism, imperialism, lead to world conflicts?
4. How did unresolved issues at the end of WWI lead to the rise of fascism?
5. **Rise and Impact of the Superpowers**

**SS-HS-5.3.5- Students will explain the rise of both the United States and the Soviet Union to superpower status following World War II, the subsequent development of the Cold War, and the formation of new nations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East, and evaluate the impact of these events on the global community.**

1. Guiding Questions
2. How did the end of World War II bring about a new balance of power in the world?
3. What was the impact of this new balance of power on social, political, and economic systems around the world?
4. **Contemporary Issues**

**SS-HS-5.3.6- Students will be able to explain how the second half of the 20th century was characterized by rapid social, political, and economic changes that created new challenges (e.g., population growth, diminishing natural resources, environmental concerns, human rights issues, technological and scientific advances, shifting political alliances, globalization of the economy) in countries around the world, and give examples of how countries have addressed these challenges.**

1. Guiding Questions
2. How did the end of the cold war mark the beginning of a new era of global issues?
3. How have countries around the world addressed these issues?