



Modern World History – 5<sup>th</sup> Period

Mr. Matt McDowell

Room: 347

Office Hours: 8:30am – 2:30pm (If needed, meetings can be arranged outside of these times)

Email: [mmcdowell@stbenedict.com](mailto:mmcdowell@stbenedict.com) - emails sent after 8pm will have a response by the next day.

Syllabus, Trimester I & II

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Students in modern world history will explore the key events and global historical developments since the 1700's that have shaped the world we live in today. The themes of identity, power, conflict, compromise and justice will provide the lenses through which students will discover the scope of modern history. They will examine aspects of human experience including economics, science, religion, philosophy, politics and law, military conflict, literature and the arts. This course will illuminate connections between our lives and those of our ancestors around the world. Students will be able to recall, analyze, compare, infer and evaluate information presented. They will be able to answer document-based questions and use research to write comparative essays. Students will also develop debate skills through class discussions and formal debates.

**Curriculum and Framework (Tentative):**

**An Age of Global Revolutions, 1700s – 1914: This will be a review from the end of last year**

**Industrial Revolution**

**Imperialism**

**World War I**

**Russian Revolution**

**World War II**

**The Holocaust**

**Independence and Revolution in Asia**

**The Cold War**

**Power Shifts in the Middle East**

**Terrorism and the Global World**

**Required Text:**

○ **Textbook:**

Your textbook this year will be online. It is titled *"History Alive: World Connections"*. The online textbook offers incredible resources. Use the link below to access your sign in page. When we register our accounts please make sure to write your password in your assignment books so you do not forget it. You are expected to have your devices with you everyday in order to access your textbook when needed.

Textbook Link: [http://student.teachtci.com/student/sign\\_in](http://student.teachtci.com/student/sign_in)

- **Edmodo code: v6sbdn**

**Daily Supplies:**

- 3-ring binder [2 inch recommended]
- 6 dividers
- Computer/Tablet
- Pen/Pencil/Highlighter
- Loose leaf notebook paper
- A positive attitude and open mind

**Classroom Expectations, Procedures, and Policies**

*You are expected to follow all Saint Benedict Rules and Policies.* The following policies will be consistently enforced to ensure that every student receives the instructional time and atmosphere that he/she deserves.

1. **BE PRESENT** --- Mentally and physically. Be in your seat ready to work before the bell rings.
2. **BE RESPECTFUL** --- Value each other's opinions, personal space, and right to learn. Academic honesty is expected in all students.
3. **BE PREPARED** --- Bring ALL required materials to class every day.
4. **BE INVOLVED** --- Actively participate in classroom activities (note taking, exercises, discussion etc.).
5. **BE AWARE** --- Cell phones, i-Pods, and other inappropriate electronic equipment will NOT be tolerated. Use is limited to explicit consent from your teacher.

**Grading Policy:**

Your grade will be computed using the following categories and point system:

Participation/Discussion--15%

Tests/Quizzes--25%

Binder Organization--10%

Homework--10%

Projects/Presentations/Classwork--20%

Final Exam/Project--20%

**Grading:**

Your grades will be determined upon the combination of the following items:

- **Tests/Quizzes [25%]**
  - A unit test will be announced and there will be sufficient time for students to study in and outside class. Unit tests will cover material from the textbook, notes, quizzes, video clips, and projects. Students will be given a study guide the week prior to a test.
  - Quizzes will be given frequently through a unit. Quizzes may cover vocabulary terms, notes, readings, movie clips, and weekly material. Study guides will not be given for quizzes as they are formative assessment and assess student progress prior to the unit exam. Some quizzes will be open notes and some will not.

- → **Reassessment for Tests**
- At teacher discretion, reassessment may be redone if the student did not show mastery of the content, or skills on certain test questions. Reassessments are a privilege and should not be taken for granted. Another requirement I ask is for the student to return the original test with a parent signature and include a request for a redo. **Students must complete their reassessment within a week of the original test.** Reassessments can only be done during the student's own time. When a week has passed the original grade will stand.
  
- **Reassessments should be completed in the following format:**
  - Question # \_\_\_\_\_
  - Question:
  - My initial answer:
- Explain why you answered the question the way you did.
- What is the correct answer?
- Where did you find the correct answer? Chapter \_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_
- Explain why this was the correct answer. [2 sentences minimum]
  
- Students will receive ½ point for every question re-assessed, which will be added to their exam score. Students are encouraged to meet with Mr. McDowell to discuss any questions they have about the chapters before re-assessing.
  
- **Projects/presentations/classwork [20%]**
  - Through the trimester we will work on many projects. There will be independent and group projects through the year. Group project grades are given by individual effort so make sure to work collaboratively with your group. Use of class time will also be a part of the grading rubric to ensure that all students are maintaining focus and effort while in class. Some work outside of class will be required for projects.
- **Homework [10%]**
  - Students may or may not have more than one day to complete an assignment. In many cases, class time will be utilized toward homework. The purposes for in class homework is to a: access to the instructor should questions arise and b: learn valuable time management skills. Students may be asked to complete some homework assignments using their online TCI textbooks.
- **Binder Check [10%]**
  - Maintaining organization is a college preparatory skill that is extremely important in molding a successful student. In this class, students will be expected to maintain an organized "Modern History" binder. Once a month students will be graded on the organization of their binder. This means that papers are hole-punched, in the correct order, and no papers are missing. Students may keep their binders in the classroom for ease of use.
- **Participation, Discussion [15%]**
  - Being involved in class is critical for success in Social Studies. You will work on many different activities such as daily bell ringers, vocabulary lists, lecture notes, projects, speeches, jigsaws, competitions, skits, and many others. I understand that not everyone

loves history, but all I ask for is an open mind, respect, and a positive attitude in the classroom. The effort you put in with your questions and participation is what you will gain with how much you learn in the end.

- **Final Exam/Project [20%]**
  - A cumulative final exam and/or project will be due at the end of term. Details to follow.

#### **Grade Updates:**

Grades will be updated on a weekly basis. You can expect grades to be updated between Sunday evening at 6pm and before 8am on Monday morning. When an assignment is entered into Power School, it means that those assignments are graded. I will indicate whether or not the assignment is missing and that missing assignment will remain a 0 until the student has turned in the assignment and it has been graded.

**Note: late assignments will be graded AFTER all on-time assignments, which will be given FIRST priority.**

#### **Grading Scale:**

**A+: 99-100**

**A: 95-98**

**A-: 93-94**

**B+: 91-92**

**B: 87-90**

**B-: 85-86**

**C+: 83-84**

**C: 79-82**

**C-: 77-78**

**D+: 75-76**

**D: 71-74**

**D-: 69-70**

**F: 69-0**

**How to be successful with assignments:** It is expected that students put forth 100% effort in every assignment. Each History assignment has a purpose and in order to be successful students must read and write carefully and thoughtfully complete every assignment in the appropriate time frame.

#### **Classroom Management Plan**

I'm committed to providing a place where all students are capable of learning and feeling safe, as well as respected. In order for this to happen I will follow this plan in the classroom and the hallway.

Step 1: Verbal warning

Step 2: Teacher Consequence (seat change, peer apology, conversation with teacher)

Step 3: Teacher Consequence (detention, phone call to parents, alerting Administration)

Step 4: Discipline referral to the Dean, Dana Burke.

- **These steps may be changed if the behavior is severe enough to warrant immediate attention by administrators and parents.\*\***
- **All detentions will be given in accordance with the St. Benedict Code of Discipline.**

#### **Quieting the class**

Whenever we are starting class I will stand at the front of the class near the projector. When I do this, it is indicating the beginning of the instructional period and to silence all conversations. I will also use this method anytime I wish to signal that I need your attention or need to give you further instructions.

### **Attendance, Late Work, ETC...**

#### **Attendance:**

- Students are expected to come to class every day, as your success in this class will be a direct result of your participation in classroom exercises.
- If you miss a class YOU will be expected to make up any relevant missed work **within a week of returning.**
- If you miss a test or quiz, you **MUST** come see me by the end of the next class day to schedule a makeup time. *Ms. Hersey moderates AM study center, this is a good time for make-up work, re-assessments, and extra help!*
- If a student knows that he/she will be absent, that student should inform me before such absence occurs AND will seek makeup work BEFORE departure. In the event of extenuating circumstances, students should seek makeup work immediately upon return, as described above.
- In the event of an unplanned absence, Mr. McDowell can also be reached by email.

#### **Behavior:**

- Students who fail to act respectfully and professionally will receive detentions according to the infractions listed in the St Benedict's Student Handbook.
- If the inappropriate behavior continues, the behavior will be reported to the school administration, and behavior will be reported to parents/guardians.

#### **Academic Dishonesty and Cheating:**

*In the St. Benedict Student Handbook is defined as:*

- Forgery or representing someone else's work as your own.
- Permitting or assisting another to present your work as his or her own.
- Making use of unauthorized resources or materials (plagiarism).

#### *Mr. McDowell's Policy on Academic Dishonesty*

- Any student who chooses to cheat or plagiarize assignments for my class will be reported to the administration and parents will be notified. I have a ZERO tolerance policy for cheating.
- Assignments that have been plagiarized may be re-done for a **maximum of half-credit**. The assignment must be turned in within one week after the assignment was due. If a student chooses not to re-do a plagiarized assignment, the grade will remain a zero.
- Any student who allows another student to copy their assignment is ALSO guilty of cheating and will receive the SAME penalties.
- Seniors who choose to cheat or plagiarize on their final exam/paper will not be allowed to walk at the St. Benedict graduation ceremony.

#### **Late Policy:**

- **Late work DOES NOT reflect the behavior expected of St. Benedict Preparatory students.**
- I will not allow students to finish homework during class (unless allowed by the teacher), nor will I accept work for full credit after it has been collected AT THE BEGINNING of class.
- Homework that is not turned in at the beginning of class will be marked as late.
- **If any assignment is turned in late, the maximum a student can receive is 80%.**
- Teacher may adjust late policy depending on certain circumstances.
- Use your student planner to avoid missing due dates! If you complete things on time, you should expect to receive prompt and helpful feedback, and you will also be able to participate and keep up with the rest of the class.
- If a student is absent for an extended period of time, they **MUST** schedule an appointment with Mr. McDowell. Deadlines and due dates will be extended for extenuating circumstances. Failure to schedule an appointment with Mr. McDowell will be reported to the school administration.

**Leaving the Classroom:** Students may only leave the classroom with expressed permission from the teacher and with a pass.

**Final Thoughts:** At most, we have 4 times per week where we meet for 60 minutes. That is not a lot of time and goes by very quick. Follow the rules, have some fun and it'll be over before you know it. If you find yourself having difficulty with anything in my class, come see me or email me. I'm here to help AND want to see everyone succeed. My office hours are listed on the front of the syllabus. If I am not available during those times, please do not hesitate to email me. For students, I respond to emails immediately.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR UNIT/LESSON SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\***



**MODERN HISTORY STUDENT AGREEMENT**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the course syllabus. Please sign and hand in tomorrow.**

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* Feel free to email me at [mmcdowell@stbenedict.com](mailto:mmcdowell@stbenedict.com) with any questions you may have. \*\*\***