

## OVERVIEW

Welcome to 12<sup>th</sup> grade History! The final year of high school history at Tesla STEM presents two different social studies courses: Contemporary World Problems (CWP) *and* Civics. Our aim is to develop the skills you need to think about history *and* current events.

In CWP, we will explore the benchmarks of world history from the Age of Exploration to the present. The purpose of this section is to gain a better understanding of the rise and decline of states, empires, and international trading systems. We'll look at the transition from regional to global interactions, examine revolutions in thought and industry, and conclude with reviews of political and social realignments occurring since the 19th century.

The Civics course examines the foundations of America's democratic traditions and how the nation has developed politically, economically, and socially from pre-colonial times to the present. By the end of this course, students will have an understanding of the structure and function of the U.S. government as well as the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.

## CONTEMPORARY WORLD PROBLEMS

I like to start the year by asking you to consider some fairly big questions:

- History of what?
- What is included in "history." And what isn't?
- Who decides what goes into history?
- Is history only one thing?
- When we set out to study World History, what do you expect to learn about?
- Can we limit history to wars and revolutions, or scientists and inventions, or buildings and machines?
- What are the big problems facing the world today?
- What do we need to know to understand the big problems in the world today?
- And if we finally understand what the problems are, are we any closer to solving them? Can we at least learn enough to avoid making them worse?

But since history didn't start when Europe discovered the New World, the course begins with a conceptual overview of how human societies organized and reorganized, with an emphasis on the patterns and ideas in major civilizations before 1400. With that background, the course then moves on to examine major historical periods with key concepts and supporting ideas.

1. Grand Challenges Pro/Con
2. Geography
3. Technology in History
4. World Religions
5. Governing
6. Toward the Scientific Revolution
7. World That Trade Built
8. What is Progress?
9. Globalization
10. Science and Ethics
11. Making Connections

Tesla STEM High School has a focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, so this course will also focus on the impact of and scientific exploration, invention, and technology, and the links between scientific and society with enough depth and insight to be able to answer those big questions.

I hope that in the process, you come up with the answers that make the most sense for you. It won't be much good for you or the future you if you just learn what I think: you have to learn what you think. I promise you, the journey will be worth the time.

## CIVICS

The Civics course consists of a series of short reading assignments, and a short test or assignment after each reading. The final assignment is to write an essay about the citizen's role in decision-making. Much of this content was covered in the Honors/AP US History class during 11th grade. In this class, we begin with review:

- Origins of the U.S. Government and Constitution
- Political Parties, Elections, and Voting
- Media and Interest Groups
- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch
- The Judicial Branch and Due Process
- State and Local Government

Based on those foundations, we will then seek to:

1. Analyze and evaluate the ways in which the Constitutions of Washington State *and* the United States --and other fundamental documents-- promote key ideals and principles.
2. Evaluate the relationships between democratic ideals and historical/current realities.
3. Understand and evaluate how political systems operate and interact.
4. Analyze and evaluate ways of influencing governments to establish or preserve individuals' rights and/or promote the common good.

All of the readings and tests/assignments are shown on separate pages on the class Haiku site.

1. Founding Documents, Beliefs, & Behavior DUE OCT. 1
2. Political Parties, Interest Groups, Media DUE OCT. 22
3. Institutions and Legislative Process DUE NOV. 5
4. City Council Meeting/Legislative Session DUE DEC. 3
5. Current Event DUE JAN. 11
6. Final Paper DUE JAN. 18

- You must complete all of the readings and assignments prior to Jan. 18, 2019.
- Any late work must be completed prior to Jan. 25, 2019 or you cannot receive credit for the class.
- No work will be accepted after that date unless prior arrangements have been made with me.

## CLASS WEBSITES

I use my websites extensively. Lectures, notes, and readings will always be on my website. Students should get in the habit of checking the site regularly for all the information about scheduled work, assigned readings, and homework.

CONTEMPORARY WORLD PROBLEMS
<a href="https://lms.lwsd.org/glenocker/stem.contempworldproblems.lenocker/cms_page/view">https://lms.lwsd.org/glenocker/stem.contempworldproblems.lenocker/cms_page/view</a>
CIVICS
<a href="https://lms.lwsd.org/glenocker/stem-civics12-lenocker/cms_page/view/34005708">https://lms.lwsd.org/glenocker/stem-civics12-lenocker/cms_page/view/34005708</a>

I also encourage students to sign up for text messages through the website that alert them whenever I add or modify the content on the website. Signing up for text messages is optional, but highly recommended.

## TEXTBOOKS

All students will be issued two texts for this year.

- Bentley/Ziegler: *Traditions & Encounters (5/e)*
- Civics Packet

Students should keep their books at home for reading assignments and return them at the end of the year. I keep a set of the books in the classroom for daily work. There is also a PDF version of the Bentley/Ziegler text on my PowerSchool page.

Students will frequently use primary documents and content from several other texts. I always post this content on my website.

## TURNITIN.COM

Your assignments in this class will be submitted to TurnItIn.com. You must enroll in the class and submit your first assignment before end of the first week of school.

CONTEMPORARY WORLD PROBLEMS	CIVICS
Class ID: 18744988 Enrollment Key: <b>eureka</b>	Class ID: 18756722 Password: <b>Jefferson</b>

## GRADING POLICY

I compute grades using cumulative points earned over the semester. Students earn their grade based on three kinds of assignments:

- **Readings, Classroom work:** Discussions or assessments to measure students' ability to identify main points of the readings. Students should complete the work to be prepared for the discussions and assessments.
- **Essays and Exams:** Short writing assignments ask students to synthesize a selection of primary sources to answer a question based on content from the textbook. In-depth evaluations gauge student learning at the end of a unit. Typically, these include multiple-choice questions and essays.
- **Projects:** students will work over an extended period to investigate and respond to a complex question or challenge, usually in a group with other students. The final product usually involves both oral and visual presentation, argumentation, and use of appropriate evidence to inform and/or persuade.

## GRADING SCALE

At Tesla STEM High School, grades are based on the following percentage system:

- A** : 90 to 100
- B+** :  $< 90$  and  $\geq 87$
- B** :  $< 87$  and  $\geq 84$
- B-** :  $< 84$  and  $\geq 80$
- C+** :  $< 80$  and  $\geq 77$
- C** :  $< 77$  and  $\geq 73$
- C-** :  $< 73$  and  $\geq 70$
- NC** :  $< 69$  and below

No Ds or Fs

I do not round up grades; I do not have extra credit assignments. Please don't expect me to reconsider a previous grade or adjust your grade upward at the semester.

## REVIEWING ASSIGNMENTS & GRADES

I use Skyward to record and post grades. I work hard to keep Skyward up-to-date, but I also want to review and comment on your work. So I will post grades only after I have graded all of the assignments for all of the class periods.

If you have a question about the grade you earned, see me during office hours.

For parents checking to see if homework has been turned in, within 48 hours of the assignment due date, I will mark the assignment as missing in Skyward. If the assignment was turned in, you will see an NG until the actual grade for the assignment is entered.

When an assignment has more than one component, I will mark the assignment INC until all of the components are turned in.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

As detailed in the **LWSD Student Rights and Responsibilities** handbook, cheating, plagiarism, or misrepresenting work is not tolerated. Academic dishonesty may result in loss of credit for the assignment or in severe cases loss of credit for the course.

## ATTENDANCE

Tesla STEM High School prepares students to be successful in college as well as develop employment skills. Turning school work in on time provides students with the structure necessary to develop time management skills and task completion skills. This policy is intended to contribute to solid work habits and academic success.

As detailed in the **LWSD Student Rights and Responsibilities** handbook, students are expected to attend every class, and to participate in every discussion, and to be prepared for quizzes, essays, projects, and tests.

If you know in advance that you must be absent personal reasons, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

## ABSENCES & LATE WORK

Things happen: you have a family emergency, you need to talk to a college or attend a competition. When you have to be away from school for more than a day, you should contact me prior to the absence to arrange make-up work.

My policy for absences and missing assignments conforms to the policies presented in the Student Handbook. In short,

- You can check Skyward at any time to see if you are missing work in my class.
- You are responsible for scheduling any assessments that you miss.
- You are expected to make up work when you have an excused or pre-arranged absence for a period in which there was a graded assignment.
- If you are absent more than one day during an assignment, you must contact me before you start work on the make-up assignment. *Please don't assume that you can join a team and present with them.*
- You have the same number of days to make work up as the number of days you were absent.
- For assignments that take more than one day, you should discuss the due dates with me. Quizzes must be made up on the day you return or no later than my next office hours.
- With the exception of excused absences, the deadline for other late assignments is the end of each unit.
- I do not accept late work after the end of the unit in which the assignment was given.

## FOR PARENTS: COMMUNICATING WITH ME

Communication between parents and teachers is essential in helping students be successful in school. I want you to be able to contact me whenever you have any questions or concerns about your student.

I have office hours these mornings and afternoons.

7:00-7:30 AM (M- F)

2:30-3:30 PM (M, T, F)

and by appt.

You may also reach me at the phone number or email listed below:

Phone: **425-936-2770**

Email: **[glenocker@lwsd.org](mailto:glenocker@lwsd.org)**

Please understand that I devote all of my classroom time to the students, so I do not answer phone calls or emails during class. However, I will return phone calls or email within 48 hours (usually sooner).

SYLLABUS REVIEW: HISTORY 12

*Please complete and sign this page and return to me by the end of this week.*

Student Name:

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(print)

I have read and understand the expectations and policies described in Mr. Lenocker's syllabus for the Contemporary World Problems, and Civics classes at Tesla STEM High School. By signing this, I recognize that I am responsible for my own actions, behaviors, and academic performance.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am sharing this with my parents and asking them to sign as well to show that they have also read and understand the expectations and policies.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_