

Mr. Mercado
Chaffey High School

**AP EUROPEAN HISTORY
COURSE SYLLABUS
2008-2009**

As of the 2007-08 school year, the AP European History course satisfies the Chaffey Joint Union High School District graduate requirement for World History.

The objective of the AP European History course is to increase the student's understanding of European history with the goal of having each student pass the AP European Examination in May. The course is divided into two semesters, the *Later Middle Ages through the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution to the present*. The areas of concentration include historical, political and economic history coupled with an intense study of cultural and intellectual institutions and their development. These areas will be studied from a variety of perspectives with the hope of providing a balanced view of history. **This course is taught at the college level.** The major difference between a high school and college history course is the amount of reading and depth of focus. Moreover, the AP curriculum stresses a large degree of higher order thinking skills within a rigorous academic context. Thus, the student will be required frequently to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate primary and secondary historical sources in addition to memorizing, comprehending, and applying facts.

Feel free to reach me if you have questions or concerns!

stevemercado@hotmail.com

www.HistorySage.com or www.homestead.com/chaffeyaphistory/menu.html

Text: McKay, Hill, and Buckler, **A History of Western Society (8th edition):**

Source Readings: Perry, Peden & Von Laue, *Sources of the Western Tradition, Vol I & 2*
Kishlansky, *Sources of the West: Readings in Western Civilization, Vol 1 & 2*
Sherman, *Western Civilization: Sources, Images and Interpretation*

Grading Scale:

A = 90 -100%
B = 80 - 87%
C = 70 - 77%
D = 60 - 67%
F = 0 - 59%

Grade Categories:

Essay Exams 31.7%
Multiple Choice Exams..... 31.7%
Homework31.6%
Quizzes5%

Exams: Approximately six multiple-choice/free-response essay exams will be given during the first semester as well as five document-based exam questions. The first quarter and first semester final exams are cumulative. Tests will be rigorous as they are intended to challenge the student at the Advanced Placement level. Moreover, tests are designed to give students frequent experience with the types of multiple-choice questions, free-response essays, and Document Based Questions (DBQ's) that will appear on the AP exam. Frequent exams also insure that students read the textbook and

supplementary readings, consistently check for understanding, and take copious notes that are thorough and well organized.

Homework Policy: Chapter assignments and readings are due on the date the assignment is shown on the calendar. Late assignments will not be accepted after the 5th late allowance. All late work must be turned in the day after it is due. For excused absences, assignments are due the day the student returns to class unless prior arrangements have been made for emergencies. Students are expected to keep a well-organized notebook of all course-related materials (e.g. syllabus, lecture notes, study guides, homework, quizzes, exams, handouts, etc.) A sub-par notebook may result in points being deducted from the "homework" category.

Missed Exams: Students who are absent legitimately on a day a test is given must make up the test on the day they return to class. If a student is absent for an extended period (e.g., more than five days), an appointment for making-up the test will be made. Complete loss of credit for an exam may result if the exam is not completed in a timely fashion. (See also "Homework Policy" above).

Participation: Students are expected to contribute in class discussions and effectively participate in class activities. Many of the class sessions will be seminars. In order for seminars to work, student preparation and participation is critical. Students who are "on the border" between grades at the semester may be given the higher grade if their overall participation has been commendable.

Summer Assignments: Although there are no mandatory readings during summer for AP European History, handouts for the first three chapters of McKay's *A History of Western Society* will be available at the library. Students are encouraged to pick up their textbooks and homework packets prior to the end of this school year. Doing some work before the beginning of the 2008-09 school year will help students to make the transition to this rigorous AP-level course easier. These three chapters will be due during the first month of the fall semester so this provides an opportunity for a healthy head start.

Most importantly, stay positive! Although this course is extremely challenging, Chaffey AP history students have succeeded well above the national average in AP-level courses over the past decade. You must believe in yourself and be willing to accept a few setbacks along the way in order to grow as a young scholar and as a person ("no pain, no gain"). Learn from your mistakes and setbacks, make adjustments, and try again. The prize at the end is worth it! You can do it!!