



Tohoku International School

Secondary School Course Syllabus

Course Title: Modern Western History	Teacher: C. Vassbotn (cvassbotn@tisweb.net)								
Grade Level(s): HSA Grade 11- 12	Time Frame: 37 weeks								
<p>Brief Course Description: This course deals with the history of the Modern Western world starting with World War I and ending with the world in which we live in today. Topics will include the World Wars, the Cold War, decolonization in Africa as well as Asia, and the changing situation in the Middle East. Upon completion of this course, students will be familiar with the political, social, and economic history during this period. Furthermore, the study and understanding of primary source documents will be stressed along with the development of historical essay writing.</p>									
<p>Course Philosophy: History is all about bringing the past back to life--retrieving what students can from times and places they may not actually get to themselves. History gives us the best front row seat for finding out about the past—where we come from and where we are going. The students will use the modern world and current events as twinned- templates of study; from the age of nationalism through the end of the Cold War and beyond. They will build on their prior learning and improve what is called '<i>historical thinking</i>'---analyzing change over time and comparing different perspectives are two examples. Students will analyze historical sources with a critical eye while drawing connections between cause and effect. History will teach us <i>all</i>--not just students, but teachers as well--not only <i>what</i> to think about the past, but <i>how</i> to think about the past.</p>									
<p>Course Objectives: By the end of this course students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the basic history of the modern Western world • Identify, critically analyze, and evaluate primary and secondary source materials • Understand and appreciate that human attitudes and opinions vary widely • Recognize that the content of history is contestable and its study requires the toleration of uncertainty and an open mind • Develop in the student the capacity to identify, to analyse critically, and to evaluate theories, concepts, and arguments about the nature and activities of the individual and society 									
<p>Units of Study:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Age of Nationalism 2. World War One 3. Between The Wars 4. World War Two 5. The Cold War 6. Current Events Individual Study Seminar 									
<p>Assessment</p> <p>Course Weightings:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Learning Skills</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Course Work</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Projects & Presentations</td> <td style="text-align: right;">25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Tests & Semester Exams</td> <td style="text-align: right;">35%</td> </tr> </table>		Learning Skills	10%	Course Work	30%	Projects & Presentations	25%	Tests & Semester Exams	35%
Learning Skills	10%								
Course Work	30%								
Projects & Presentations	25%								
Tests & Semester Exams	35%								
<p>Resources: Google Classroom Patterns of Interaction Textbook</p>									

Tohoku International School:

A community of learners preparing for life in an evolving global society