



Tohoku International School

7-101-1 Yakata, Izumi-ku, Sendai 981-3214, Japan

Tel: (022) 348-2468 Fax: (022) 348-2467

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Course Title: Modern Western History 2020-2021	Teacher: Ms. Lies Van Keer Email: lvankeer@tisweb.net
Grade Level(s): Grades 9-10	Time Frame: 34 weeks
Brief Course Description: This course will be covering events in Western History ranging from World War II to the Collapse of the Soviet Union and its aftermath. Although the focus will be largely on the West, students will study relevant pieces of history from other regions of the world as well. Students will look into how political, economic, social, and religious aspects of the 20th century intertwined with each other to create a century of great upheaval and change across the West and impacted the world we live in today. We will also look at sustainable cities, introducing students to geography and case studies. At the end of the school year, there is a unit on ethics to help students connect to the Theory of Knowledge subject in the Diploma Program. The lessons will be focused on building up the core skills relating to argumentative writing, advanced research, reading comprehension, and critical thinking. This will involve completing a variety of assignments including: debates, research essays, document based questionnaires, oral presentations, and annotated readings among others.	
Course Philosophy: In History class students will train themselves in having a critical eye when looking at information and understanding how to best use information to inform their ideas and beliefs. To do so students will need to understand what makes differing sources valuable or limited, as well as what a well researched argument looks like. The topics covered in history will be the vehicle to carry out this type of critical thinking as students will look at the human condition and its evolution over time. While doing this students will need to come to their own conclusions and find ways to defend these viewpoints. A successful student in this History course will gain a better understanding of how to think logically and how to make their ideas persuasive and easily understandable.	
Course Objectives: By the end of this course students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Develop and practice the skill of historical thinking● Observe how different aspects in history are connected throughout different eras● Be familiar with the basic history of the 20th century with a focus on the West● Familiarize themselves with better research practices and higher level sources● Analyze primary and secondary source documents successfully and with a purpose● Create well supported argumentative writing pieces● Help students lay the foundation for college level skills in their research, writing, reading comprehension, and critical thinking	
Units of Study <ul style="list-style-type: none">● World War II - the Pacific Front and the Nuclear Age● Sustainable cities - Geography case studies● The Cold War - the Rise of the Soviet Union● The Cold War - the Proxy Wars● Modern Day Revolutions and Civil Rights● Ethics	

Tohoku International School:

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



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Assessments

There will be a variety of assessments used throughout the course to gauge students' understanding and abilities. Assessments are designed to build off of each other over the course of the year and better prepare students for assignments they could potentially encounter at the college level.

For students to be successful with assessments they need to consistently attend class and regularly engage with resources and assignments given in class or posted on Google Classroom. Students will turn in work weekly and be updated on the current overall grade in the class once a week.

In accordance with the school's homework policy, late assignments will receive a deduction of 20% of the total mark. Assignments that are more than a week late will not be accepted. Students are expected to take responsibility and initiate a conversation if they foresee the need to turn in an assignment after the due date.

Course Weightings

Do Nows/Participation – 10%

At the start of every class students will complete a written reflection or task. This will be a way of seeing that the student is present and engaged at the start of class. Some classes will also start with reading or homework quizzes to see that students are keeping up with assigned work.

Formative Assessments – 30%

These assignments are one that students complete to gain an understanding of the knowledge and/or skills required for the larger assignments in the unit. This can include things like taking notes from readings or homework, term definition sheets, questionnaires that accompany documents, outlines for written pieces, graphic organizers, and other smaller assignments. These assignments are largely graded on the students ability to complete them and comprehend the key concepts of the unit.

Summative Assessments – 60%

These assignments are larger pieces of work that students use their knowledge from formative assessments to complete. This includes assignments like essays, exams, group presentations, debates, research charts, source critiques, and other larger assignments. If students complete formative assessments they will be much more capable of scoring highly on these, as the formative assessments are designed to allow students to practice the necessary skills and gain the required knowledge to score highly on the larger assignments.

Course Specific Materials Required

- Pencil or pen
- Binder with paper or notebook
- Laptop and charger brought to school daily