

## Course Outline

Comparative Cultures is a survey course designed to provide an overview various cultures through time. Focus will be placed on gaining understanding of institutions (political, social, and economic structures), belief systems/values, daily life, gender roles, power and authority, and artwork. Through these areas of focus students will broaden their perspectives and advance their skills of critical thinking and analysis.

### Areas of Study:

1. Introduction / archaeology / pre-history
  2. Mesopotamia / Egypt / India / China
  3. Greece
  4. Rome
  5. Medieval Europe
  6. New World – Conquests - Aztec / Inca/ Maya
  7. If time permits - Case Studies (Modern)
- } Term 3
- } Term 4

### Course Content

Students will be learning about and developing and understanding of:

- definitions of culture and how these have changed over time
- elements of culture and cultural expressions
- conflict and conflict resolution within and between cultures
- systems of power, authority, and governance
- role of value systems and belief systems in the development of cultures
- interactions and exchanges between cultures
- interactions between cultures and the natural environment

### Formative Assessment:

Discussions, Questioning, Observations, Analysis of Concepts, Research Skills, Presentations, Responses, Group Work, Reflections, Connections, Drawing Conclusions, Participation, Self- Evaluation/Reflection.

### Summative Assessment/Marks Breakdown:

<b>Curricular Outcomes</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>10%</b>



### **BIG IDEAS**

(THESE WILL BE FOCUSED ON THROUGHOUT THE COURSE)

- Understanding the diversity and complexity of cultural expressions in one culture enhances our
- Understanding of other cultures.
- Interactions between belief systems, social organization, and language influence artistic expressions of culture.
- Geographic and environmental factors influenced the development of agriculture, trade, and increasingly complex cultures.
- Value systems and belief systems shape the structures of power and authority within a culture.

### **Major Focus will be on “The Big 6 Concepts of Historical Thinking”**

Historical Significance  
Primary Source Evidence  
Continuity and Change  
Cause and Consequence  
Historical Perspective  
Ethical Judgment

**Absences:**

1. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT to make up any missed work due to an absence. The teacher will not chase students for their work.
2. If a student is absent on the day that a test/assignment is given s/he must make arrangements with the teacher to make it up.
3. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT to hand in all assignments. The teacher will not chase the student for their work.
4. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT to arrange an extension to the due date of an assignment or the assignment will be marked as late.



**Required Readings:**

1. Odyssey through the Ages
2. World History: Human Legacy
3. Various readings

**Grading:**

1. You will be assessed using Standard Based Grading – the standard being the Concepts of Historical Thinking. Each area of study will contain specific historical thinking tasks , a booklet, and a summative quiz and will usually be a week to two weeks in length. You will **NOT** have unit tests but instead unit quizzes to demonstrate your learning of the material and competencies. However; you will have a mid-term exam upon completion of term 1, and a final exam upon completion of term 2.
2. Grades will be updated on myed after each area of study is completed and posted on the wall.

**Behavior Standards**

- A. Proper supplies are necessary for learning. Please come prepared.
- B. One student at a time can leave the classroom.
- C. Lates and unexcused absences will not be tolerated.
- D. Students are expected to respect school and personal property at all times
- E. Food is **NOT** permitted in the classroom unless cleared by the teacher (exceptions: water in a bottle)
- F. You are expected to arrive to class on time every day and be prepared to work with all necessary materials.
- G. Profanity is unnecessary.
- H. Cellphones are a distraction. You are NOT permitted to use them.
- I. A classroom seating plan will most likely be implemented....be prepared.
- J. There are no late marks because I will not mark anything that is handed in late 😊