

Eugene International High School  
Eurasian History, 2016-2017  
(a.k.a. "Global History")

**Kyle Yamada**

E-mail: yamada@4j.lane.edu  
Telephone: 541-790-6636 (Sheldon), 541-790-8030 (South)  
Blog: <http://blogs.4j.lane.edu/yamada>  
Office hours: 8:00-8:20 at Sheldon, 3:30-4:00 at South, and by appointment

**Rationale: Why Study History?**

Where do we come from? How did we get here? Where do we fit in the world today? These are a few of the questions we will explore over the course of the year. You will learn about the origins of what we call "civilization," how cultures throughout the world have interacted over time, and how our own culture has come to be. This course will help you develop your understanding of the world around you, giving you a valuable tool for dealing with problems confronting our society.

This class will also help you develop critical thinking skills that will serve you in whatever path you choose in life. Examining sources to ascertain their reliability and usefulness will help you protect yourself from those who take advantage of the gullible. The study of history is a first step towards independence.

**Content and Themes**

**Major Content Areas**

- Western Civilization
- Islamic Civilization
- Indian Civilization
- Chinese Civilization

What the heck does ancient Greece have to do with modern China? How will we connect stories of people that span thousands of years and three continents? Try thinking of history as a fabric. Each people's story is like a thread running through time. Certain themes run across time and space, tying it all together. As we weave our way through the year, patterns will emerge, connecting cultures that seem completely different from each other on the surface.

**Academic Policies**

**Grading Procedures**

Your grade will be based on five major categories with their approximate percentage weight listed below:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Tests and reading quizzes   | 35%   |
| Long-term assignments – Research papers, out-of-class projects    | 35%   |
| Group activities and in-class projects                            | 20%   |
| Day-to-day homework – Based largely on reading assignments        | 10%   |
| Participation and citizenship – Discussion and respect for others | No specific value, but may determine borderline grade |

You will earn final grades at the end of each semester according to the following grade scale:

A = 93-100%, A- = 89.5-92.99%, B+ = 87-89.49%, B = 83-86.99%, B- = 79.5-82.99%, C+ = 77-79.49%, C = 73-76.99%, C- = 69.5-72.99%, D = 59.5-69.49%, NP = 0 – 59.49%

Day-to-day homework is worth a relatively small percentage of your grade, but you will be able to use the daily reading assignments as notes on many of the tests and quizzes. A large number of the test questions will be drawn directly from the reading assignments. It is my hope that this system will give you more flexibility in showing what you know and streamline the grading process.

I may make mistakes on occasion, so please **keep graded assignments for your records**. They are your proof that you have completed the work. Besides, these materials will also help you study for tests.

### **Academic Integrity**

Naturally, I expect you to turn in your own work, as opposed to work copied from friends, the Internet, or other sources. If I find that you have cheated or plagiarized on any part of an assignment or test, you will receive zero credit for the work. There may also be other consequences, such as a referral to an administrator, depending on the seriousness of the violation. This policy applies equally to those who help someone cheat/plagiarize. The objective is not to punish, but to ensure that the vast majority of students who do exercise integrity are not put at an unfair disadvantage.

Of course, there are exceptions for group projects and assignments on which I explicitly ask you to work together, but this means everyone contributes to the finished product – it does **not** mean one person copies someone else's work. To ensure that you are thinking for yourself even as you work together on small assignments, **make sure to put all answers in your own words** – otherwise, it's plagiarism.

### **Discussion and Citizenship**

Spirited discussions of controversial issues are a vital part of learning in our class. To receive full credit in the citizenship/participation category, you will need to jump into the arena and get your ideas out there on a regular basis in a way that is respectful to others in the class. Expressing your brilliant ideas can be counterproductive if you do it in a way that makes others afraid to speak up. I will not tolerate put-downs or harassment of others in the class, and participation/citizenship grades will reflect this policy. The goal is to make all students feel comfortable sharing their views.

### **Electronic Devices**

**Students may not use smart phones, iPods, tablets or any electronic devices that distract from the business of class** unless I give explicit approval for educational use. A student using one of these devices in class without my permission will forfeit it for the rest of the school day. A parent will have to pick up the device after school each additional time the student uses it in class. The purpose of this policy is to create an environment that allows everyone to concentrate on economics. Research shows that the human brain cannot learn as effectively with distractions.

### **Absences, Tardies and Late Work**

It's important to show up on time so you can get credit for reading quizzes that we will take and homework we will correct at the very beginning of class. Regular, timely attendance also contributes to the discussion/citizenship portion of your grade.

**Assignments are due at the beginning of the period** on the due date listed. Work submitted any time after the beginning of the period will still be counted as late. Assignments will lose up to 10% of their value each class they are late until only half credit is possible. I will accept late work only up to one week before the end of each semester. I will not accept day-to-day homework assignments late without an approved extension.

If you think you will be unable to turn in an assignment on time, the important thing is to **talk to me before the due date**. The earlier you approach me, the more sympathetic I will be to your request for an extension. If I do grant an extension, you may still receive reduced credit for the assignment depending on how early you contacted me and the validity of the reason.

All work turned in past the original due date must have a completed “**due date extension form**” attached or it will not receive credit. These slips are available in the classroom and on the “assignments” page of my web site.

### **Assignment Blog**

If you are absent you are responsible for checking the class blog at <http://blogs.4j.lane.edu/yamada>. This page will tell you what homework is due for the next class and will also give a brief description of what we did in class that day. You will be able to download some handouts in Adobe Acrobat or MS-Word format, but not all handouts will be available online, so make sure you have your homework partner pick up copies of any materials you are missing.

### **Homework Partner**

Find a person you can rely on to be your homework partner. Homework partners are responsible for providing each other with information about homework and missed lessons if one them is absent.

Homework partner: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check the assignments page and ask your homework partner for any handouts you may have missed while gone before asking me.** I will also make extra copies available in the classroom from time to time. See me only once you have exhausted these other options. This will save us valuable time in class.

## **Day-to-Day Procedures**

### **Beginning Class**

It’s important to be in your assigned seat and ready to go when class starts, since you will frequently be showing me your homework for completion or taking a short quiz. Right before class is not a good time to ask me questions, as I will be focusing on the day’s activities. However, I’m more than happy to talk to your heart’s content if you drop by at other times or make an appointment.

### **Materials**

Your textbook is *World History: Patterns of Interaction*. You do not need to bring it to class each day. I do expect you to bring your own pens, pencils, paper and notebook.

### **Food and Drink**

You may bring food and beverages to class as long as you clean up after yourself.

### **Bathroom**

Please take care of business before class. If you need to go during class wait until a group activity or a transition between activities in order to keep distractions to a minimum. Let me know you are stepping out before you go so I don’t accidentally mark you absent.

### **End of Class**

At the end of the period **you will be responsible for copying down any assignments** listed on the board and **turning in any homework due that day** that I didn’t collect at the beginning of class. I also expect you to help others who use our room by returning seats/desks to their original positions, putting away any materials that you use during class and cleaning up any messes you may have made.

I’m looking forward to a great year ahead!

*Appropriate accommodations will be made for special needs students.*