

Core History 7: 1850 – 1945  
Mr. Busek

*Objectives*

The period between 1850 and 1945 were critical years in which the world saw the decline of the European powers and the coming-of-age of the United States. In the fall semester, we will be looking at political and military forces at work during late 19<sup>th</sup> century, including the unifications of Germany and Italy, the age of imperialism and the ultimate result of the problems of the period: World War I and the Russian Revolution. In the spring, we'll examine American culture during the Roaring 20's, the financial crisis that brought about the Great Depression and how the U.S. came through this trying time. We will then shift our attention back to Europe and study the rise of totalitarianism under Adolf Hitler, Vladimir Lenin and Josef Stalin, and Benito Mussolini. Finally, we will take an in-depth look on the causes and events of the Second World War. We will also be having periodic units on the geography of Europe and the United States.

*Texts*

Much of the material for this class will be photocopied from various textbooks, including Houghton-Mifflin's *History of the World* and Boyer's *The American Nation*. In addition, we will be looking at primary sources (that is, documents and other works from the periods that we are studying). Many of these primary sources can be found at the Internet Modern History Sourcebook (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>).

*Grading*

Your grade in this class will be determined in the following manner:

**Class Participation: 25%**

In this class, you will be expected to be active in discussing the readings in a polite and respectful manner. Education is an active process; simply sitting and listening will benefit you very little. There will be many opportunities to talk about both the events of this period in history and about the study of history in general. Failure to do so will result in points taken off your final grade.

**Writing Assignments: 30%**

In the study of history, nothing is more important than the ability to write clearly and concisely. To develop these skills, I will be asking for regular writing assignments based on the material that we cover. These assignments will challenge you to interpret and explain historical events with an eye towards reaching a greater understanding of history. Some writing assignments will be done during class time, while others will be completed at home and handed in.

For the fourth quarter, the students will be expected to complete a research project concerning the Second World War. This project will count for the majority of the writing assignment grade for the fourth quarter.

**Quizzes: 15%**

To ensure that you are reviewing your notes on a regular basis, there will be a series of review quizzes based on our lectures. These review quizzes will be scheduled in advance. They will typically take between five and ten minutes of class time and will usually consist of a timeline and a number of multiple choice questions.

There will also be a geography quiz after every geography unit. These quizzes will require you to fill in the blanks of a map that I will provide to you. Because these quizzes will be testing your knowledge of geography, they will be worth twice the value of a typical review quiz.

**Tests: 30%**

There will be a test after the completion of every unit. The typical format for the unit test will be as follows: a section of matching, a timeline section, a section of multiple choice, and a few short answer questions.. To help you prepare for these tests, I will be providing a study guide at the beginning of each unit. I strongly suggest that you briefly review your notes and readings on a weekly basis to help you prepare for the test.

*Administrative Records*

On the last page of this syllabus, you will find a box asking for both your signature and the signature of a parent or guardian. This signifies that you understand the contents of this syllabus and the requirements listed. There is also a video-viewing permission slip that must be signed by your parent or guardian. These sheets **MUST** be signed and returned to me by the Friday of the first week of classes.

## *Class Schedule*

Here is a basic outline of what to expect over the year. Readings will be given out at the beginning of every unit, while homework will be assigned in class.

### UNIT 1: EUROPE IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY

- How to Read and Write History
- Geography Units: Europe, Italy and Germany
- Italian and German Unification
- The Decline of Eastern Europe
- Western Europe in the Late Nineteenth Century

### UNIT 2: IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA AND ASIA

- Geography Unit: United Kingdom and Ireland
- European Rule in Africa
- India: The Jewel of the British Empire
- European Imperialism in China

### UNIT 3: JAPANESE AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

- The Modernization of Japan
- American Attitudes towards Empire
- The Spanish-American War

### UNIT 4: WORLD WAR I

- Geography Unit: France
- The Causes of the War
- Stalemate and Trench Warfare
- American Involvement
- The Treaty of Versailles

### UNIT 5: THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

- Geography Unit: Russia
- Review of Marxist Philosophy
- The Reign of the Last Czar
- The March and October Revolutions

## UNIT 6: AMERICA IN THE 1920s

- Geography Units: U.S., Northeastern U.S.
- Intolerance and the Red Scare
- Prohibition and Organized Crime
- Automobiles and Airplanes
- Cultural Developments of the 1920s

## UNIT 7: AMERICA AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION

- Geography Unit: Southeastern U.S.
- The Great Crash of 1929
- The Election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- FDR's First Term
- FDR's Second Term

## UNIT 8: THE AGE OF DICTATORS

- Geography Unit: Midwestern U.S.
- The Rise of Hitler and the Nazis
- The Reigns of Lenin and Stalin
- The Rise of Mussolini

## UNIT 9: WORLD WAR II – CAUSES THROUGH PEARL HARBOR

- Geography Unit: Western U.S.
- Appeasement and Its Failure
- Nazi Germany's Early Victories
- The Life of Winston Churchill
- Operation Barbarossa
- American Attitudes and the Attack on Pearl Harbor

## UNIT 10: WORLD WAR II – HOME FRONT THROUGH THE ATOMIC BOMB

- Geography Unit: Southwestern U.S.
- The American Home Front
- Victory in Europe
- The Holocaust
- Victory in the Pacific
- The Dropping of the Atomic Bomb

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class: Mr. Busek/Core History 7**

I hereby affirm that I have read this syllabus and fully understand all the requirements for success in this class.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_