



HST550: AP[®] European History

This course is the equivalent of an introductory college-level course. It explores political, diplomatic, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual themes in European history from 1450 to the present. Students cultivate higher-order thinking and writing skills that are assessed through essays, various writing activities, quizzes, and tests. They apply their historical analysis during threaded discussions, mock trials, and an Enlightenment Salon. The course scope and rigor help prepare students for the AP[®] European History Exam along with further study in the humanities.

COURSE LENGTH: Two semesters

MATERIALS: None

PREREQUISITES: Success in previous history course and a teacher/school counselor recommendation

SEMESTER ONE

Unit 1: Course Introduction and Essay Writing

Students are given an overview of European contributions to the world. They review how to write an introductory paragraph, a provocative thesis, body paragraphs, and an effective conclusion.

Unit 2: The Renaissance and Exploration

Students look at the political and economic characteristics of Italian city-states in the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. They explore intellectual hallmarks of the Renaissance and innovations in Renaissance art. Then they look at the Renaissance outside Italy; secular and Christian Humanism; women's role in Renaissance society; social thought; and the impact of Gutenberg's movable type. They study Machiavelli; centralization of power and the ideas espoused by "new monarchs"; and early European explorations.

Unit 3: The Reformation

Students look at conditions of the Roman Catholic Church from 1400 to 1517; Martin Luther and the rise of Protestantism; Luther's 95 Theses and the social and political impact of his beliefs; and Germany and England during the Reformation. They explore other Protestant movements—Calvinism, Anabaptism, Church of Scotland, and Protestantism in Scandinavian countries; Catholic and Counter-Reformations; and Baroque art.

Unit 4: Age of Religious Wars

Students explore the origins of religious turmoil in France from 1515 to 1559; the Huguenots; the War of the Three Henries; and the Edict of Nantes. They study Phillip II and the Spanish Armada; the Thirty Years' War and the Peace of Westphalia; the origins of modern Skepticism; and population trends and family conditions in Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Unit 5: Writing the Document-Based Essay

Students consider the declining status of women in the sixteenth century; read, organize, and interpret documents on witchcraft; analyze point of view in documents and compose a document-based essay. They begin to read *Candide*.



Unit 6: Absolutism and Constitutionalism

Students learn about the essential characteristics of an Absolutist state and the foundations of French Absolutism. They learn about Thomas Hobbes, Louis XIV, and French Classicism. They study Spain in the seventeenth century; Absolutism in Prussia, Austria, and Russia; the English Civil War; the Glorious Revolution; and John Locke and the essential components of Constitutionalism. They also explore the Dutch Republic in the seventeenth century and Dutch art.

Unit 7: Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment

Students learn about the influences on the Scientific Revolution; Ptolemaic and Copernican views of the universe; and contributions of Brahe, Galileo, Newton, Bacon, and Descartes. They learn about the world-view held by thinkers in the Enlightenment; women's contributions to the Enlightenment; and the "Enlightened Despots." They discuss Voltaire and *Candide*.

Unit 8: Europe in the Eighteenth Century

Students learn about the Agricultural Revolution; inventions that improved farming techniques; and the population explosion. They learn about the Seven Years' War, Anglo-Dutch Wars, and the wars of Spanish and Austrian Succession. They learn about Adam Smith and Economic Liberalism; and family life, education, medical practices, religion, and popular culture.

Unit 9: French Revolution and Napoleonic Europe

Students explore *Crane's Anatomy of a Revolution* and review the revolutions studied to date. They consider the impact of the American Revolution on Europe; the causes of the French Revolution; Locke's ideas in the Declaration of the *Rights of Man*; the Storming of the Bastille; the secularization of religion; government reforms; and constitutional changes. They learn about the National Convention and the Reign of Terror; political clubs; the Directory; Napoleon; and Neoclassical art. Then they review the semester and take the semester exam.

SEMESTER TWO

Unit 1: The Industrial Revolution

Students learn about the Industrial Revolution in Britain; inventions that improved production; railroads; the factory system; and labor laws and reforms. They discuss Dickens's *Hard Times*. They explore new theories on economics; learn about Marx and early Utopian Socialists; and view the film *The Day the Universe Changed*.

Unit 2: Isms, Upheavals, and Metternich

Students learn about the Congress of Vienna; the European balance of power; and the Metternich System. They learn about Economic and Political Liberalism, Nationalism, and Socialism; *The Communist Manifesto*; tenets of Romanticism; and Romanticism in literature, visual art, and music. They study revolutions of the 1820s and 1830s in Greece, Portugal, Spain, Sardinia, and France and revolutions of 1848 in the Austrian Empire, Prussia, and Russia.

Unit 3: Nationalism, Unification, and Urban Society

Students explore the impact of Industrialization on cities; the "Bacterial Revolution"; urban planning in Paris; and the social structure between 1850 and 1900. They study science in the nineteenth century; Realism in literature; Nationalism; the unification of Italy; and the unification of Germany. They study the crisis in the Austro-Hungarian Empire; the modernization of Russia and the Revolution of 1905; and Republican France.

Unit 4: Imperialism, Great War and Russian Revolution

Students compare the Old and New Imperialism; learn about technology that made the New Imperialism possible; and study Social Darwinism and the Black and White Men's Burden. They study imperialism in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East; global inequality; population pressures and migration patterns; and reactions to Imperialism through Japanese, Chinese, and Indian case studies. They study WWI, its impact, and the Russian Revolution.



Unit 5: Postwar Era and WWII

Students study the Treaty of Versailles; Germany after the Great War; Western democracies from 1920 to 1929; and the Great Depression. They explore Existentialism, Freud, and logical empiricism; developments and new understanding in physics; and Fauvism, Surrealism, Dadaism, Expressionism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Cubism, and nonrepresentational art. They study Totalitarianism, Fascism, and Nazism; Stalin, Hitler, and Mussolini; WWII; and the Holocaust.

Unit 6: The Cold War and Modern Era

Students learn about postwar challenges; political and economic recovery in Europe; the European Union; decolonization; the Cold War; and the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They explore science; the changing lives of women; common patterns and problems in the 1990s; and the beginning of a new millennium. Then they review the semester and take the semester exam.