



# EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

*Fostering a Culture of Excellence*

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The AP European History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in European History. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by introductory college courses. Students will learn to evaluate historical materials for their relevance to a given historical problem, reliability, and importance, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented by trends in historical scholarship. AP European History students will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgement and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in both short answer and essay format.

**Extra time outside of class is required on the part of AP students for class preparation, outside reading, and completion of assignments. AP courses provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory courses. Students who take AP European History are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in the spring.**

The AP European History course is divided into four main units of study over the year. Each unit is divided in teaching modules to facilitate student learning and to emphasize key themes of the course.

The five key themes of the course are:

1. Interaction of Europe and the World
2. Poverty and Prosperity
3. Objective Knowledge and Subjective Visions
4. States and Other Institutions of Power
5. Individual and Society

## **1st Six Weeks Overview**

For the entire 1st six weeks grading period and for the first two weeks of the 2<sup>nd</sup> six weeks, students will be engaged in the first unit of the course covering the time period c. 1450 to c. 1648 broken down into the modules. Course work will focus on the following modules during the 1<sup>st</sup> six weeks.

- ◇ Module I: Foundations (Classical and Medieval Europe)  
The classical and medieval eras laid the foundation of European society through contributions made by the Greeks, Romans, Germanic tribes, and the Catholic Church.
- ◇ Module II: Renaissance, Exploration and New Monarchs  
In the fifteenth-century, the European worldview shifted from one based on religious and traditional political structures to one based on the power of human potential. Driven, by demographic, environmental and economic changes, this led to the discovery of new lands, new ideas and ways of thinking that spurred changes in society and the arts as well as politics and warfare.

- ◇ Module III: Religious Reform  
With the rise of new ideas and the struggle for political power, religious movements developed to challenge the existing structure and power of Europe. This struggle often led to military conflict and changes in political authority.
- ◇ Module IV: Scientific Revolution  
The new world view of the sixteenth to mid eighteenth-century was heavily influenced by achievements and milestones in physics and medicine. These discoveries had societal and economic implications that transformed the European world view.

**In addition, “Celebrate Freedom Week” will take place during September.**

Throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> Six Weeks, student knowledge and understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways, such as:

- ◇ Historical Thinking Skills
- ◇ Periodization – what time period or era does it fit into (key words: turning point)
- ◇ Causation – how and why something happened (key words: causes, effects, led to, development of, impact)
- ◇ Comparison – what are the similarities and differences (key words: causes and effects)
- ◇ Contextualization – why did it matter at that given time in history
- ◇ Continuity and change over time – what is the same and different over time (key words: maintain continuity and foster change)
- ◇ Historical Argumentation – what is your position on the issue (as foundation toward DBQ & FRQ Writing Assignments)
- ◇ Interpretation – what is it saying and what does it mean
- ◇ Synthesis – so what, and why does it matter
- ◇ Use of Historical Evidence – how will you use evidence to support your argument & stance on a historical topic
- ◇ Course Learning Objectives
- ◇ Class Discussion and Cornell Notes/Annotation – along with other methods of note-taking
- ◇ Thinking Maps and Graphic Organizers
- ◇ Collaborative Small and Large Group Discussions (Paideia, Socratic)
- ◇ Document Analysis of Primary and Secondary Sources (Historiography)
- ◇ Critical Listening and Note Taking/Summarizing
- ◇ Critical Questioning
- ◇ Mental Mapping – geographical awareness
- ◇ Formative and Summative Assessments
- ◇ Project-based research/projects

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student. We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure academic success.

Respectfully,

AP European History Teachers

AP European History

1<sup>st</sup> 6 Weeks