



## **Ruben S. Ayala High School Course Expectations**

**Course: Honors World Civilizations**

***Course Description:***

In this year-long course (two semesters), students examine major turning points in the shaping of the modern world, from the late eighteenth century to the present. The year begins with an introduction to current world issues and then continues with a focus on the expansion of the West and the growing interdependence of people and cultures throughout the world.

### ***Course Goals:***

- To compare the present with the past, evaluating the consequences of past events and decisions and determining the lessons that were learned.
- To use a variety of maps and documents to interpret human movement, including major patterns of domestic and international migration, changing environmental preferences and settlement patterns, the frictions that develop between population groups, and the diffusion of ideas, technological innovations and goods.
- To analyze how change happens at different rates at different times; understand that some aspects can change while others remain the same; and understand that change is complicated and affects not only technology and politics but also values and beliefs.
- To relate the moral and ethical principals in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, in Judaism and Christianity to the development of Western political thought.
- To compare and contrast the Glorious Revolution of England, the American Revolution and the French Revolution and their enduring effects worldwide on the political expectations for self government and individual liberty.
- To analyze the effects of the Industrial Revolution in England, France, Germany, Japan and the United States.
- To analyze patterns of global change in the era of New Imperialism in at least two of the following regions or countries: Africa, Southeast Asia, China, India, Latin America, and the Philippines.
- To analyze the causes, course and effects of the First World War.
- To discuss human rights violations and genocide, including the Ottoman government's actions against Armenian citizens.
- To analyze the rise of totalitarian governments after World War I.
- To show the connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and larger social, economic and political trends and developments.
- To analyze the Nazi policy of pursuing racial purity, especially against the European Jews; its transformation into the Final Solution; and the Holocaust that resulted in the murder of six million Jewish civilians.
- To understand the meaning, implication and impact of historical events and recognize that events could have taken other directions.
- To trace Stalin's rise to power in the Soviet Union and the connection between economic policies, political policies, the absence of a free press, and systematic violations of human rights (e.g., the Terror Famine in Ukraine).
- To construct and test hypotheses; collect, evaluate and employ information from multiple primary and secondary sources; and apply it in oral and written presentations.
- To analyze the causes and consequences of World War II.
- To analyze the international development in the post World War II era.
- To analyze instances of nation-building in the contemporary world in at least two of the following regions or countries: the Middle East, Africa, Mexico and other parts of Latin America, and China.
- To analyze the integration of countries into the world economy and the information, technological and communications revolutions (e.g., television, satellites, computers).