



Dominican International School
台北市私立道明外僑學校
No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.
10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



COURSE SYLLABUS

School Year	2025-2026
Subject	Ancient History
Grade Level	9
Teacher	Mr. Gerhard Victor
Email	gvictor@dishs.tp.edu.tw

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In Grade 9 Ancient History, students will embark on a fascinating journey through the earliest civilizations that laid the groundwork for human society. This course delves into ancient civilizations' history, culture, and achievements in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, India, China, Americas until the Medieval Period, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the foundations of human development. Through studying ancient cultures, students will gain insight into how civilizations emerged, evolved, and left a lasting impact on the world we live in today.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester/school year, (SWBAT) Students will be able to:

- Recognize and describe key ancient civilizations, their geographical locations, and periods, including but not limited to Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, India, China, and the Americas.
- Understand ancient societies' social hierarchies, political systems, and cultural institutions, and evaluate their influence on the lives of individuals and communities.
- Explore ancient civilizations' cultural and intellectual achievements, including art, architecture, literature, philosophy, and technological advancements, and analyze how these contributions continue to shape modern society.
- Investigate ancient peoples' daily lives, customs, and traditions, examining family life, gender roles, religion, and rituals.
- Analyze the economic systems, trade routes, and commerce that sustained ancient civilizations, and understand the role of trade in cultural exchange and development.
- Trace the evolution of political power from early city-states to empires, and understand the factors that contributed to the rise and fall of ancient political entities.



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- Develop the ability to compare and contrast ancient civilizations, identifying similarities and differences in their beliefs, governance, and societal structures.
- Develop critical thinking skills by evaluating historical sources, interpreting primary and secondary texts, and constructing well-reasoned arguments based on evidence.
- Recognize the connections between ancient history and modern times, appreciating how the legacies of ancient civilizations continue to shape contemporary global dynamics.
- Develop empathy by examining historical events and cultures from multiple perspectives, fostering a deeper understanding of the human experience across time and space.

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

- Ellis, E. G., & Esler, A. (2022). *World History Interactive* (2022nd ed.). Savvas Learning Company.
 - Customized PPT slides from Mr. Victor

STUDENT MATERIALS REQUIRED:

1. Individual and group work projects/ Maps
2. Quarterly E-Portfolio/ Academic Portfolio
3. Research Papers / Project
4. A notebook for grammar, vocabulary, journal, and other note-taking
5. A laptop
6. A plastic folder to keep worksheets organized
7. Highlighters, post-it notes, different colored pens, pencil

GRADING SYSTEM/ASSESSMENT:

The quarterly grade will be awarded for all student work based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Class Participation, Graded Recitation, Quizzes, and Tests- 30% of quarterly grade
- ✓ Major Projects and Assignments- 30% of quarterly grade
- ✓ Quarterly Exams- 30% of quarterly grade
- ✓ Department- 10% of quarterly grade



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CLASSROOM RULES:

Rules and consequences are as stated in the Student Handbook In addition:

- Speak only English in the classroom.

All classroom conversations must be conducted in English. Ask permission to speak Chinese to understand a specific point/word if necessary. Failure to ask for permission will be met with the same consequences as if it were for a personal conversation. After a first warning (reset weekly), detention will be given for using Chinese in the classroom.

- Be Respectful.
- Be Responsible.

This means being prepared, bringing your class materials, finishing any homework.

- Try your best.

Participate in class, and try to answer questions.

- No eating, drinking (water is allowed), sleeping, personal grooming, or distracting activities.
- No cell phones without the teacher's permission.
- No using computers during class without the teacher's permission, and use computers/tablets for school work only.
- Please keep the classroom clean by picking up after yourself.
- Please treat teaching aids and tools with respect.
- Do not leave the room without the teacher's permission. Always push in chairs when you leave your desks.
- After completing every section, there will be a quiz to test students' knowledge with regard to the topic.
- Every student is expected to prepare for the quiz and do his/her best. If absent, he/she must meet the teacher and explain/ present proof (e.g., medical certificate, excuse letter) explaining the reason for absence and make up the quiz without further delay. Quizzes can be announced or unannounced.
- The portfolio should be maintained properly, and it will be checked periodically, and points will be given for the portfolio.

Discipline:

1. Verbal warning, second reminder (if needed).
2. Write-Up and then referral to the Discipline Office.
3. Parent-Teacher conference.



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please always check Google Classroom for homework and announcements.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's work.
- Representing another's intellectual work, such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, research, or the like, as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
- Employing a tutor, using Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgment, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, and paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's work.
- Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment/learning task.

First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (August 12 to 15) 4 days of class 12-General Assembly at the Gymnasium 15-Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady	Orientation/ School and Classroom Rules Topic 1: Origins of Civilization 1.1 Learning About Our Past • Studying Prehistory • Investigating Prehistory
Week 2 (August 18 to 22) 18-St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration) Integrated during the Monday Assembly 20- House Shirt & Blue Jeans Day Starts 22- Club Orientation and Club Sign-up	1.3 Civilization Begins • The First Citizen • Changes in Civilization Quiz 1



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Week 3 (August 25 to 29) 27- High School Talk - "Kickstart Your Success: Winning Mindsets for a Great School Year" 29- First Club Meeting	Topic 2: The Ancient Middle East and Egypt 2.1 A Civilization Emerges in Sumer • The Fertile Crescent • Sumerian Civilization • Sumer's Legacy
Week 4 (September 1 to 5) 1- Launching of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (During the Monday Assembly) 1-AP Registration 3- AEO Fall University Fair 5- House Ceremony	2.2 Empire in Mesopotamia • Empires Emerges in Mesopotamia • New Empires and Ideas • Rise of the Persian Empire Quiz 2
Week 5 (September 8 to 12) 8- Holy Mass: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & VIP Induction 10- House Mini Games Start	2.3 The Hebrews and Judaism • Ancient Israelites • Judaism's Legacy
Week 6 (September 15 to 19) 15- Catholic Bridge Program for all New Students (After the Monday Assembly at the Gymnasium) 19- Athletics / Sports Orientation 19- PSAT/NMSQT Registration deadline	2.4 Egyptian Civilization • Religion Shapes Ancient Egypt • Organization of Egyptian Society • Egyptian Learning Advances Quiz 3
Week 7 (September 22 to 26) 22- Celebration of the International Day of Peace-Peace Pole Ceremony (During the Monday Assembly) Teacher's Day Celebration & 26- Teachers' Appreciation 26- Grade 12 Career Educational Trip 24 to 26-Pre-Exam Days	Topic 3: Ancient India and China 3.1 Early Civilization in South Asia and Science Advances • The Indian Subcontinent • Indian Civilization Egyptian Learning Advances • Aryan Civilization and the Vedas
Week 8 (September 29 to October 3) 29- Launching of the Month of the Holy Rosary (During the Monday Assembly)	3.2 The Origins of Hinduism and Buddhism • Hindu Beliefs • Buddhism Spreads Quiz 4



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Oct. 1-2- First Quarter Exam (half day)	
<i>Oct. 3-DIS Teachers and Staff Recognition Day/ Record Day Recollection for Aunties and Uncles (no classes for students)</i>	

Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>6-Moon Festival (no classes)</i>	
<i>7-9 Teacher's Conference (no classes)</i>	
Week 1 (11) (October 13 to 17) 13- Second Quarter Begins 13- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 2nd Semester 14- Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms (During the morning prayer) 15- AP Exam Only Registration Deadline 15- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 17- PSAT/NMSQT Digital Exam	3.3 Ancient Civilizations in China • Geography Influences Chinese Civilization • The Shang Dynasty Begins to Form China • The Zhou Dynasty Religious Beliefs in Early China • Two Major Belief Systems Take Root
Week 2 (12) (October 20 to 24) 20- Jubilee: Marian Exhibit Opening (After the Monday Assembly) 20- Campus Safety Talk for Students 24- Book Fair (Senior Escape Room)	3.5 Strong Rulers Unite China • Shi Huangdi Unified China • The Han Dynasty Creates a Strong China • The Han Golden Age • Buddhism Spreads in China Quiz 1
Week 3 (13) (October 27 to 31) 29- Grade 11 Career Educational Trip Oct. 31 to Nov. 1- Gr.6 SEL Camp	TOPIC 4: The Americas 4.1 Civilization of Middle America • Civilizations, Development in Middle America • The Maya, The Aztecs
Week 4 (14)	4.2 The World of Incas



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(November 3 to 7) 3- Feast of St. Martin de Porres Mass (integrated during the Monday Assembly) 5- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep	• Cultures of the Aztecs • Inca Empire Quiz 2
Week 5 (15) (November 10 to 14) 14- Health Week 14- VIP-Parent Learning Community	Topic 5: Ancient Greece 5.1 Early Greece • Minoans Prosper from Trade • Mycenaean Civilization • Iliad and Odyssey
Week 6 (16) (November 17 to 21) 17- Launching of Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Month 21- Young Shakespeare Play Writing and Performing Contest	5.2 The Greek City States • Geography Shapes Greek City States • Disciplines and Warfare in Sparta • Democracy Events in Athens • Democracy Evolves in Athens • Greek Words with Persia • Greek Wars with Pressure • Democracy and War Quiz 3
Week 7 (17) (November 24 to 28) 24- Peace Pole Day (Monday Assembly) 24- Lighting of the Christmas Tree after school (Campus Min/ ECA/ D' Torch Orchestra/ Religious Studies) (Afternoon) 25-27- Pre-Exam Days 27- Thanksgiving Potluck after school for teachers and staff 27- Thanksgiving Family Day 28- Gr. 12 Second Quarter Exam	5.3 Greek Thinkers, Artists, Writers • Philosophers • Greek Literature • Studying History
<i>Nov. 29 Invitation for All: The Jubilee Pilgrimage to Taipei (Saturday)</i>	
Week 8 (18) (December 1 to 5) 1- First Week of Advent: Lighting of First Advent Candle (During the Monday Assembly)	5.4 Alexander the Great in The Legacy of Greece • The New Era of Alexander the Great • Holistic Arts and Science • The Greek Legacy



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3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 5- Nativity Play (Collaboration with Campus Ministry) 5- Christmas Fair Whole Day	Quiz 4
Week 9 (19) (December 8 to 12) 8- Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony, and Class Party (half day) 8- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 8- Second Week of Advent 10- Gr. 12 Advent Immersion 11 and 12- Second Quarter Exam (half day)	Review and Q2 Exam
<i>December 13 Invitation for All: Advent Recollection @DIS (Saturday)</i>	
<i>December 15 to January 2 Christmas Break</i>	

Third Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>January 5- Record Day (No Classes for students)</i>	
Week 1 (20) (January 5 to 9) 5- PSAT 8/9 Registration Starts 6- Third Quarter Begins 7- Monthly Career Talk-College Prep 9- New Year Mass at 8:00	Topic 6: Ancient Rome and the Origins of Christianity 6.1 The Roman Republic - The Rise of the Roman Civilization - The Early Roman Republic - The Roman Society
Week 2 (21) (January 12 to 16) 16- Club Orientation & Sign Up	6.2 The Roman Empire Rise and Decline - Empire Building Through Conquest - The Roman Republic Declines - The Roman Empire Splits Economic Causes
Week 3 (22) (January 19 to 23) 19-23- Individual Yearbook Photoshoot for Students	6.3 The Legacy of Rome Roman Literature, History, and Philosophy



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19-23- Career Awareness Week 22- Grade 9 Career Educational trip 23- First Club Meeting for 2nd Semester	- Roman Art Architecture and Drama - Roman Advancement in Science and Technology - Roman Law Unites the Empire Quiz 1
Week 4 (23) (January 26 to 30) 26- Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas/Launching of the Catholic Week 26-28- Aquinas Conference: Science and Faith 26-30- Catholic Week Activities 30- DYM Charity Concert	6.4 The Origins of Christianity - Romans Accept Many Religions - Christianity Spreads - The Growth of the Christian Church
Week 5 (24) (February 2 to 6) 1-4- WASC Mid-Cycle Visit 4- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6-7- SUA0 Recollection for MS	Topic 7: Medieval Christian Europe 7.1 The Early Middle Ages - The Byzantine Empire Thinkers - The Age of Justinian's Changes in Western Europe Charlemagne Builds an Empire Change
Week 6 (25) (February 9 to 13) 9- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 1st Semester for SY2025-26 13- PSAT 8/9 Registration Deadline 13- House Valentine's Mini Fair 13- Chinese New Year Celebration	7.2 Feudalism and the Manor Economy Feudalism Develop Manorialism Quiz 2
<i>February 16-20 Chinese New Year Holiday</i>	
Week 7 (26) (February 23 to 26) 23-26- IOWA Assessments 23- Student Council Application 24-26- Pre-Exam Days	7.4 Economic Expansion and Change the Crusades After Trade Expense and A New Middle Class - The Crusader - The Reconquista
<i>February 27 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)</i>	
Week 8 (27)	7.5 The Feudal Monarch of the Church



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(March 2 to 6) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6- PSAT 8/9 System Installation and Practice Test	• The English King • The French Monarch • The Holy Roman Empire Quiz 3
Week 9 (28) (March 9 to 13) 13 and 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day)	Review and Q3 Exam

Fourth Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (29) (March 16 to 20) 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day) 16-20- Faculty & Staff Yearbook Photo 17- Fourth Quarter Begins 18-21- EARCOS Teachers' Conference 19- Lectio Divina and Feast of St. Joseph 20- Parents Learning Community Meeting 20- Kindilympics 20-House Movie Night and Club Fair	7.6 Learning Literature and Arts of the Middle Ages • The Medieval Literature Architecture and Art
<i>March 21 (Saturday) Spring Fair</i>	
Week 2 (30) (March 23 to 27) 23-27 Student Leaders Applicant Interviews 26- Annual Visit to World Religion Museum Gr. 11 27- Lower School Readers Theatre	7.7 The Late Middle Ages: A Time of Upheaval • Black Death in Europe • The Hundred Years' War Quiz 1
<i>March 30 to April 6 Easter/Spring Break</i>	



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Week 3 (31) (April 7 to 10) 7- Spring University Fair 9- Easter Mass 9- Easter Egg Hunt for Lower School Students	Russia and Eastern Europe Mongols Conquer Russia Geography and Early Kingdoms Quiz 2
Week 4 (32) (April 13 to 17) 13 Laudato Si Month Launching (During the Monday Assembly) 13-30 Laudato Si Month Activities 13-17- Class Photo Taking 17- AP Chinese/Japanese Practice Test	9.4 Korea and Its Traditions The Silla Koryo and Choson Dynasties
Week 5 (33) (April 20 to 24) 20-24 Cultural Awareness Week / Art Exhibit / Earth Week 24- Music Recital 20-24 Student Council Campaign 20-24 AP Mock Exams	9.5 The Island Kingdom of Japan - Japan's Geography - Early Japan - Chinese Influence in Japan Quiz 3
Week 6 (34) (April 27 to 30) 27- Student Council Elections 27-30 Senior Project Presentations 28-30 Pre-Exam Days	9.6 The Many Cultures of Southeast Asia - The Geography of Southeast Asia - Indian Culture Spreads - Kingdoms and Empires the Rise of Vietnam Quiz 4
May 1: Labor Day Public Holiday	
Week 7 (35) (May 4 to 8) 4- May Crowning & Mother's Day Celebration (During the Monday Assembly) 4-14 Final Exams (K, Gr. 5, 8, & 12 Only) 4-15 AP Exams	Review



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Week 8 (36) (May 11 to 15) 13 and 14- Fourth Quarter Exam— Undergraduate (half day) 14-16 Student Leaders Retreat Days	Review and Q4 Exams
<i>May 15 Record Day (No Classes for students) Final Deliberation for Graduating/Promoting Classes</i>	
Week 9 (37) (May 18 to 22) 18- Gr. 5 Recollection & Mass 19- Gr. 8 Recollection & Mass 20- Gr. 12 Recollection 20- Baccalaureate Mass (Whole School) 18-21 WIDA Testing 19- Lower School Sports Day / Gr. 6 & 7 School Field Trip 19- Gr. 9 - 11 - "Senior Success Forum: Inspiring the Next Generation" 19-22 Student Clearance Days 21- Middle & High School Sports Day 21- High School Field Trip 22- House Culminating Activity 20-22 Final Deliberation for Non-Graduating Classes 22- Student Leaders One Day Recollection / Turn Over Ceremony	Student Clearance
Week 10 (38) (May 25 to 29) 25- Kindergarten Graduation/Gr. 5 Promotion 26- LS Field Trip 26- Gr. 8 Graduation and Gr. 12 Graduation	Gr. 9-11 Recognition Class Party



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27- Pre-Kindergarten & Gr. 1 - 4, 6 & 7, 9-11 Recognition

Last Day of School, Report Card 28-Distribution, & Class Party (half day)

29- Last day for Teachers/Staff Meeting

“Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán”