# Syllabus: World History 1 & 2 – Mr. Best

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Welcome to world history! These two courses are the first social studies courses offered at Issaquah High School and, as such, they are intended to introduce students to the skills they will need to succeed in subsequent classes and beyond. Please take a few minutes to review the following policies.

## Core Beliefs

I believe that the mission for each high school student is to acquire the following three things:

* Autonomy
* Critical Reasoning Skills
* Collaborative Skills

Therefore I use my course content as a way to address the development of these fundamental but difficult to acquire qualities.

## Material

* **3 ring binder, 1-2 inches, to be left in the classroom**
  + **Lined paper snapped into binder (maybe 80 sheets or so)**
* **Pens, pencils, etc.**
* Other materials such as colored pencils, rulers, post-it flags, erasers, and highlighters encouraged but not required.

## Grading Policy

My grading is divided into the following categories:

* Assessments 70%
* Final Exam 10%
* Classwork 20%

Assessments cover quizzes, tests, projects, writing tasks, and anything else that I use to assess student learning. Classwork consists of material not necessarily used to formally assess but instead used as tasks to learn the material. It will be made clear to students which work is classwork and which is assessment.

## Late Work

Students have until the end of each semester to demonstrate that they have met the targets of the class. Anything that they might turn in can be turned in until the beginning of finals week. This means any piece of writing, any critical assessment, any worksheet, etc. Tests may be remade on appointment (student must set up a time to do so). The formal end of that period is the moment the first final begins each semester. No late work will be accepted after that time.

## Absences and Makeup Work

Absences happen. When they happen to you, here is what you should do:

* Check the site ([http://bestihs.weebly.com](http://bestihs.weebly.com/)) for assignments. All assignments will be posted here.
* Ask Mr. Best for anything you missed once you return.

## Attendance/Tardies

Attendance will be taken each class period. Students who arrive to class after the bell rings will be marked late/tardy. Students who arrive to class less than 10 minutes late will be marked late. Student who are more than 10 minutes late will be marked tardy. Students are expected to remain in class for the entirety of the period. If a student leaves class, without a pass, and is gone for more than 10 minutes they will be marked tardy. Students who are repeatedly late or tardy will be assigned the consequences and interventions outlined in the student handbook

## Cheating

I take cheating very seriously. Feel free to learn from each other and work with each other but do not try to pass off other’s work as your own.

* For all assessments (tests, essays, etc.), students found to be cheating will be assigned a 0% for that assessment and **will not** be allowed to retake or resubmit that assessment.
* For all assignments, students will receive a 0 and the original copy will be taken but students may redo the assignment for credit.

## Cell Phones

I understand that cellphones are important to students and have many legitimate uses in class. When students are not supposed to be listening to me, other instructors, or fellow students, they will not be disciplined for listening to music, researching, or answering the *occasional* text or phone call.

However, students will be disciplined for any of the following: playing video games, excessive use, taking videos, social media, or any other use that I determine to be distracting from theirs or other’s learning.

Students will receive a warning. After that warning, they may be asked to surrender their phone to me until the end of the class period. I will never keep their phone after class ends. Students who repeatedly violate room norms may not receive a warning. For particularly excessive violators, they may be asked to surrender their phone at the start of class every period.