

# Ancient World History

*Scenic Middle School*

**TERM** All, 2017-18

**LOCATION** Room G3

**INSTRUCTOR** Leaf Jensen

**DESCRIPTION** In this course, we will study the emergence of the major civilizations of the ancient world, beginning with the Paleolithic Era (about 2.5 million years ago) and finishing with the end of the Middle Ages in fifteenth century A.D. We will pay special attention to how societies evolved across this expanse of time—from fragmented and primitive agricultural communities to more advanced and consolidated civilizations. To do this, we will rely upon textbook readings to provide historical overviews of particular civilizations and then utilize primary-source documents to illuminate the unique features of these individual societies. By the end of the course, you will possess a thorough understanding of important overarching social, political, religious, and economic themes in the ancient world, ranging from the emergence of Confucian philosophy in Asia to the fall of imperial Rome. You will also understand how many aspects of these ancient civilizations continue to remain relevant in today's world.

- OBJECTIVES** Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:
- identify and define the world's earliest civilizations, including the Neolithic Revolution, and describe how it shaped the development of these early civilizations;
  - identify, describe, and compare/contrast the first advanced civilizations in the world - Mesopotamia and Egypt;
  - identify and describe the emergence of the earliest civilizations in Asia: the Harappan and Aryan societies on the Indian subcontinent and the Shang and Zhou societies in China;
  - identify and describe the subsequent rise of the Qin and Han dynasties;
  - identify and describe the different periods that characterized ancient Greece - Archaic Greece (or the Greek Dark Ages), classical Greece, and the Hellenistic era;
  - identify and describe the characteristics of the Roman Kingdom, the Roman Republic, and Imperial Rome;
  - identify and analyze the Buddhist and Vedic (Hindu) faiths;
  - analyze and describe the rise of Islam in the Middle East;
  - identify and describe the rise and fall of the Byzantine Empire;
  - identify and analyze key facets of medieval society in Western Europe - the Catholic Church, feudalism, and the rise of technology and commerce; and
  - analyze and interpret primary-source documents that elucidate the exchanges and advancements made in civilizations across time and space.

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**MATERIALS NEEDED** Spiral Notebook-white college-ruled paper at least 100 pages, preferable plastic cover  
3-Ring Binder Zipper Pencil Pouch  
#2 Pencils  
Glue Stick  
Colored Pencils  
Erasers  
Ruler-Metric/Inches  
Dry Erase Markers Low Odor (4)  
Notebook Paper  
Black Ultra-Fine Sharpie  
Scissors  
Paper  
High lighters  
Pens-blue, black, red  
Colored Markers  
Pencil Sharpeners (manual, hand-held).

**GRADING POLICY** Grades are composed of class work, homework, projects, and tests. All work is worth a designated point value.

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

0% - 55% = F

Turning in work is the key to passing my class. I will always pass a student who turns in all their work. I am available for extra help most mornings before class.

**MR. JENSEN'S WORLD HISTORY** <http://scenicjensen.weebly.com>

**WEBSITE**