



Southmoreland School District

AP Euro Curriculum Overview

AP Euro Overview:

Advanced Placement European History is a college level course in European History 1450-present. It is designed for the student who has shown exceptional ability in social studies. Highly developed critical thinking skills and proficiency in historical essay writing are necessary. Examinations, essays, research and supplemental reading assignments are similar to those given at the university level. Students are responsible for a summer assignment and a research project.

Module Titles:

Module 1: Renaissance and Exploration

Module 2: Age of Reformation

Module 3: Absolutism and Constitutionalism

Module 4: Scientific, Philosophical, and Political Developments 17th - 18th centuries

Module 5: Conflict, Crisis, and Reaction of late 18th century

Module 6: Industry and its Effects

Module 7: 19th Century Perspectives and Political Developments

Module 8: 20th Century Global Conflicts

Module 9: The Cold War and Contemporary Europe

Module Overviews:

Module 1: Renaissance and Exploration

Students develop an understanding of the background of the High Middle Ages and the major events that occurred in it to help spawn the Italian Renaissance. During this review of the High Middle Ages proper Referencing/Citing of Data will be reviewed along with how to properly write in the AP format. A number of Primary Sources, maps, and videos will be used to help students understand the political, social, and economic intertwining of both the Renaissance and Age of Exploration.

Module 2: Age of Reformation

This module will help students understand the enormity that religion played in common European lives by analyzing the terrible acts Christians committed against one another. Concentrated research on important religious figures and events will be a major focus. Many Primary Sources from Reformation leaders like Luther, Zwingli, and Erasmus will be analyzed.



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AP Euro Curriculum Overview

Module 3: Absolutism and Constitutionalism

With all of the violence and disorder brought about by the chasing of wealth and clashing of religion, by the end of the 16th century Europeans minds like Hobbes and Locke debated greatly the best system and style of government that would prevent such horrible conflicts and violence from occurring in the future. With what many see as the failure of most Absolute Monarchs to provide the safety, security, and liberty people now identified with, Constitutionalism was born. Analysis of the English Civil War and Glorious Revolution revolving around the Stuart Monarchy will help students grasp why Constitutionalism was born.

Module 4: Scientific, Philosophical, and Political Developments 17th - 18th centuries

As Europeans became more educated the culture started to develop new ideas on how people think and develop. Starting with the Scientific Revolution that directly changed the Catholic Church's view of the World, people started to wonder 'Well what else is not true in my life?' This prompted huge discoveries and growth in Science, Education, and how Governments treat and interact with their people.

Module 5: Conflict, Crisis, and Reaction of late 18th century

By the end of the 18th century Absolutism was still the most popular form of Governing throughout most of Europe. Most of these leaders were fueled by their egos and their often selfish decisions as rulers led to economic and social upheavals in many of their nations. Political Wars raged, the most popular and longest of the century being the Thirty Years War. This War shows the shifting attitudes of leaders and Governments to specifically not rely on religion as much in their ruling, but more importantly sapped the morale and funds of many of their nations. This helped create growing interest and concern amongst the working classes who were growing wealthier and wealthier.

Module 6: Industry and its Effects

With the growth of Mercantilism and the chasing of wealth, people and Governments understood more than ever that what makes a nation strong is money and capital. Industry grew from the new findings, theories, and philosophies of the era. With the growth of Industry also came the growth in power of the working class. New rights and organizations will help advance Worker's Rights and continue to fuel the growth of Industrial nations. With new Industrial Military strength came a boldness and aggressiveness of many leaders to use their new technology and wealth to better their nations.



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Module 7: 19th Century Perspectives and Political Developments

Students develop an understanding of the rise of conservatism and nationalism in the 19th century and the role it played in the 1848 Revolutions. The module also examines the Napoleonic Wars and the effect they had on the European map in the 19th century.

Module 8: 20th Century Global Conflicts

The growth of Industry and Technology meant the creation and use of many new weapons and ways to wage war. Major conflicts such as World War I and World War II will be analyzed so students may understand the political and economic motives behind nations engaging in War.

Module 9: The Cold War and Contemporary Europe

After the major Wars of the first half of the 20th century many politically motivated proxy wars were fought for almost 40 years in what became the World's first ideological war. Analyzing and studying the different geopolitical battles that were waged and the long term results of those conflicts will be a major focus. With the continual decades long conflict between the two sides came the creation of the European Union and advancement of the United Nations.