**Instructor:** Bob Poelking

**Office Hours:** 4th Pd

**E-Mail:** rpoelking@helenaschools.org

**Phone:** 1-406-324-2264

**Google Classroom**: ck55bv2y

**AP European History**

**2025-26 Syllabus and Student Contract**

C**ourse Introduction**

AP European history is a class designed to immerse you in a collegiate-level course and earn college credit for it. This class will require a substantial amount of reading, note taking, and subsequent analysis. It is not a class for the faint of heart. You will be asked to write complex, well thought out, timed essays. You will dive into all manner of subjects: Humanism, Heresy, Social Darwinism, Marxism, Nationalism, genocide, and more. AP Euro is an intensive class,there will be a … robust amount of reading each week; it will not be superfluous- this class covers nearly six centuries of history and there is NO way we can cover it all in class; you will NEED to READ to get a good grade in this class. There is a lot of everything in this class and not all of it is something you’re going to love learning about for any number of reasons; this is my way of saying there will be regular discussions of atrocities, intolerance,alvery, extreme violence, filth, and a whole bunch more, plus art that includes explicit violence and nudity. The intent is not to get a rise out of you, the intent is to expose you to the unvarnished history that the College Board wants you to understand- if that doesn’t sit well with you, this class might not be for you- no hard feelings.

I love this stuff and I want you to enjoy this class and get something out of it (even if it isn’t a desire to teach AP Euro). My goal for this class is to do two things: instill in you an understanding of the ludicrously complex web of causation that is Modern European history and then to teach you the content and skills to do well on the AP Test. I treat assignments in this class like a college class- I won’t grade many of them. The point of many readings, writings, videos, etc. that you will complete every week is to deepen your knowledge of the subject matter and ensure you have access to as much relevant information as possible. The vast majority of your grades will come from multi-part tests, the remainder will be from occasional projects and the odd assignment.

I encourage and hope that you all will do more in this class than skim the book for notes and stare at the clock. I hope you will engage with every situation, issue, and topic at hand.This class doesn’t work if I just hold forth and tell you everything- that doesn’t tend to stick,therefore, you need to take part in this enlightened absolutist monarchy that includes constant, open dialogue between me the teacher and you the student.

**Requirements: What will it take for you to pass this class?**

1. Be Responsible
   1. Sit in your seat in class when the bell rings
   2. **Suggested Supplies:** Binder, notebook, writing implements;I’ll tell you when you need a laptop.
   3. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING MATERIALS AND HOMEWORK WHEN YOU ARE ABSENT!!!-Check the website, ask a fellow student, ask me, look at the calendar.
   4. This is an AP class “I forgot” is a lame excuse and leaves you at a severe disadvantage, keep up on your work.
   5. E-mails previewing the week will go out Fridays to school accounts
      1. Most documents to be used in class will be available in digital format as well
2. Be Involved
   1. Participation and discussion are LARGE parts of this class, get into it.
   2. Do your homework/ be here for Tests, Essays, and DBQs- **0s will be entered as placeholders until late work is turned in**
      1. Late work may be turned in until the end of the Unit/ negotiated time after return from illness
      2. Late tests are to be taken within 3 days of your return to school
      3. Tests/Essays/ DBQs may be corrected for ½ of missing credit for up to 1 week after their return *IF YOU COMPLETE THE REQUISITE NOTES FOR THE UNIT*
   3. TRY! CARE!
   4. Ask questions if you need help. Ask questions if things don’t make sense. Ask Questions.
   5. READ. THE. BOOK.
   6. LEARN. THE. VOCAB.
   7. USE. THE. WORKBOOK.
   8. Voice your opinion in such a way that it progresses conversation and dialogue.
3. Be Respectful
   1. No profanity or disrespectful language.
   2. Voice your opinion in such a way that it is respectful of others’ ideas and progresses the dialogue. IN OTHER WORDS-THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK!
   3. You do not have the right to interfere in your classmates’ education.
   4. Do not use your electronic device unless directed by me. For real, I don’t want to take phones. But I totally will.
   5. Communicate with me if you are having issues with someone in the class, including me.

4. Be a Graduate

1. Take pride in your work- this is an AP level course and I fully expect you to put in the requisite work to get a 3 or higher (pssst… aim for a 5- Especially if you’re a JR, a 5 on this looks awesome on a resume)
2. Set a goal and go for it. Talk with me or your peers if you want help- we’re a team.
3. **Cheating:** Cheating will not be tolerated. Your parents will be contacted and a referral will be written if you are cheating. I’m here to help, all you’ve got to do is ask.
   1. DON’T. 1) there’s a pretty good chance I’ll notice 2) this sets you up for crippling failure on the AP test and neither of us want that.
4. Pass this class. This class is not out to get you, it’s here to help you better yourself and score college credit.
5. Utilize all supports that are provided by our school or community.

5. Online

1. It’s pretty easy to spot when people do assignments together online. Helping a classmate is fine, copying isn’t. If you’re iffy on where the line is, ask- don’t risk it.
2. I have a school-backed program to check for Chat GPT
   1. It’s INCREDIBLY easy to eyeball pretty much any Chat GPT product, there will be no forgiveness, so don’t test it.
   2. This sounds trite, but cheating really only hurts you, so… don’t
3. Establish a normal schedule -you likely aren’t doing your best work at 3 a.m.

**If you cannot meet classroom expectations or follow directions, you will first receive a warning. Continued poor choices will result in a written referral that will be sent to your principal. I want every student to reach their maximum potential in this class and I will not tolerate poor behavior that infringes on other people’s right to learn.**

**Absences:**

1. Students have 3 days to make up work from an excused absence
2. Students may not make up work with an unexcused absence.
3. Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. Whenever possible arrangements for make-up work should be made with the teacher prior to the absence.

**Tardies:**

After 3 tardies (per semester), you will receive lunch detention with me. After 4 tardies I will automatically write a referral. It does not matter why you were tardy! For further tardy policy information please refer to the student handbook.

**Late Work:** I try to be flexible with late work, but the bigger the assignment, the more rigid I get; that is to say, missing something small isn’t the end of the world, but flaking out on a presentation or semester-ending product could result in a 20% deduction per day. Turn your stuff in, you’ll have time to work on it. Precluding extenuating circumstances, I enforce hard deadlines at the end of each quarter- if I don’t have it, it’s a zero. If I don’t have your work when I grade an assignment, I put a 0 in the gradebook until I am holding your late assignment- it can really mess with your grade and trigger alerts on PowerSchool and that’s the point.

**Hall passes:**

You’re upperclassmen, I’ll trust you to take it if you need it. If there isn’t a pass, wait.

**Food & Drink:**

Food and drink are allowed in the classroom unless it becomes a distraction or messy. And the room is carpeted, so be careful.

**Grading Criteria.**

You will be graded on the following categories (Grades are total points per Semester, we finish early, so our S1 “final” isn’t really a final. I’ll explain more in class.

* Tests/Quizzes - will be based off the format of the AP Test with attendant timing
  + Make ups for credit will be allowed IF all work for the corresponding Unit has been turned in
  + We’ll take 2-3 each Semester (1,2,3 and 4,Cumulative, Project)
* Writing Assignments - includes timed writes, practice DBQs, essays.
* Daily work and Participation - this is working in class, group work, effort, and discussion involvement
* Projects- large projects may be broken into pieces (e.g. research, outline, presentation, etc.

**Topics and Units;** So just what will we be studying?

**Semester 1:**

1.Skills and Outline

2. Renaissance, Exploration, and Reformation

3. Absolutism and Enlightenment

**Semester 2:**

1. Industrialization, Revolution, and Conservatism
2. The 20th Century
3. Review/ Historical Superlatives

**FILMS**

Please note that pg-13 or R-rated/ TV MA-rated films and are used for educational purposes. By signing below, you authorize your child to watch rated R films in class. I will use discretion on the content, and fast forward through scenes I feel are inappropriate. Please note if you would like them removed for an alternative assignment.

This happens increasingly rarely (history classes only get longer). This is usually something like a clip from *Queen Margot*, or part of *Schindler’s List*- much more as illustrations than as whole films.

**\* By signing below, the student and parent / guardian acknowledge and agree to the above expectations and requirements.**

**Please return bottom portion of this paper with your permission for your son/daughter to watch R rated films and your contact information.**

Student Name (PRINTED): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (SIGNED): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name (PRINTED): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name (SIGNED): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature to allow R movies:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature to **NOT** allow R movies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I look forward to working with your son/daughter and would like to communicate with you throughout the year. Please provide the best way to get in contact with you, whether it is your work phone, cell phone, or e-mail.

Best way to contact me (the parent) is:E-mail\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\* If you have any questions or concerns with the Syllabus, please contact me at your earliest convenience.