

MS/HS 141 – RIVERDALE KINGSBRIDGE ACADEMY
GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 3
Policies and Procedures – Fall 2014

Instructor: Mr. Sforza
Room: 330

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Course Overview:

This semester we will study world history from the Scientific Revolution through the end of World War I. As the course proceeds chronologically, we will examine themes such as conflict, revolution, nationalism, and imperialism. We will also focus on the development of social studies skills (reading, writing, note-taking, discussing, questioning, research, analysis) in preparation for the Global History and Geography Regents Exam. The units of study are:

1) Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment (1550-1800)	4) Nationalism and Imperialism (1800-1914)
2) Political Revolutions (1776-1815)	5) Revolution in Russia / World War I (1914-1918)
3) Economic and Social Revolutions (1700-1900)	

Classroom Procedures:

For the first 5-7 minutes of class, all students are expected to be working silently. This is the time to do the following: 1) copy assignments/deadlines from the board; 2) take out any assignments that are due; 3) copy the Aim; and 4) complete the Do Now. The Do Now will almost always involve reading and writing, not speaking. Therefore, the room should be quiet. After the Do Now is completed, I will make class announcements and gladly answer any questions before beginning the lesson. I will also set aside several days a week where I will be available at lunch or after school for extra help or to discuss any problems or questions you may have. During the lesson, there will be times when I will require your full attention and other times when you will be working independently or in groups. The more easily we can transition between these two modes, the more enjoyable and successful our class will be. At the end of class, you must remain in your seat until the bell rings. Under no circumstances should you be out of your seat waiting for the bell.

Seating:

Assigned seating helps me learn your names and helps me take attendance quickly. If there is a problem with your assigned seat, please see me to discuss a seat change, but continue to sit in your assigned seat until it has been changed.

Classroom Behavior:

It is imperative that we maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect in the classroom at all times. Verbal disrespect and disruption of fellow students may result in disciplinary action. Of course, all RKA rules apply in class.

Materials:

Required:	a binder or binder section devoted to our class; loose leaf paper; blue or black pens; #2 pencils
Recommended:	small dictionary; highlighters; 3-hole punch

You will receive a copy of *World History: Patterns of Interaction* to keep at home. You do not need to bring it to class.

Lateness & Absence:

If you are late to class, **you MUST sign the late book**, regardless of whether or not you have a pass. It is impossible to fully participate in class if you are late or absent. Therefore, excessive lateness and/or absence will negatively affect your class participation grade. When you are absent, you must present me with a signed note from a doctor or parent. If you are absent for an extended period of time due to illness, you must contact me to discuss how you will make up the work.

Late Work:

No work will be accepted more than three days after the due date. If you are absent, you are responsible for contacting me or a homework buddy in order to stay up-to-date. Work not completed in the required time will be recorded as a “zero”. There will be no option to make up the work later. Computers and printers break down and sometimes don’t work – it happens all the time. You need to know this and compensate by not waiting until the last minute to print your work. This **WILL NOT** be a valid excuse for late work!

E-mailed Work:

If you are absent from class, you may submit work to me via e-mail. Please do so only in the case of sickness, medical emergency, or other extended absence.

Class Website:

Although you will receive hard copies of *some* materials, most assignments and readings will only be available as postings on my website. The web address is rkasforza.weebly.com. On this website you will find links to documents on Google Docs. In order to access the links you will need to open up a free Google account if you don’t have one already.

Makeup Tests and Essays:

After a test or in-class essay is completed, I will announce a makeup date. If you are absent on the original date, the makeup date is your one and only chance to make up the test or essay. Makeups will be offered at lunch or after school in Room 330.

Presentation of Work:

For some papers and projects, I will require typed work. Typed work must meet the following guidelines:

- Black ink on white paper
- Double-spaced
- 12-point Arial font
- 1-inch margins on top, bottom, and sides

I will provide a downloadable template on the class website that meets these guidelines.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

Plagiarism is using someone’s words or ideas without giving them credit. We will discuss the proper format to use when crediting sources. Directly copying words from the internet will not only result in a grade of “zero,” but is also a violation of RKA rules and may be dealt with as a discipline issue. The same goes for cheating or helping someone to cheat. Make sure your work is your own!

Grading:

Your grade will be based upon tests, essays, homework, projects, notebook checks, class participation, and a final exam. Your grade will be determined as follows:

Tests/Essays/Projects	Homework	Class Participation	Notebook
55%	25%	10%	10%