

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CONSIDERATIONS for AP COURSES

- College admissions at many prestigious and competitive colleges, including some **private schools** and all UCs (University of California), will conduct a careful, holistic review of student transcripts and favor a rigorous schedule which shows college readiness and experience. While a competitive GPA and college entrance exam scores are still significant criteria for admissions at these institutions, a student who takes an AP class (college-level rigor) and earns a C is usually more desirable than a student enrolled in an Honors/CP/high school class earning an easier A in the same subject.

On the other hand...

- Many colleges – including the entire CSU (California State University) system of colleges - do not review levels of courses at all, and admit students solely on numbers (GPA and college-entrance exam scores). For those institutions, having a higher GPA is more important than being in the most rigorous classes offered, even AP.

The above can be confusing and sophomore year is too soon to finalize an exact college path. Focus on this:

- Student GPAs can be increased because of AP course designation (ex. earning a C in AP World History is the same as earning a B in an Honors or CP World History class because AP is a weighted grade). **However**, earning lower than a C in any class – at any level (including AP) - is always detrimental for admission to ANY school.
- Students who succeed in AP courses in high school are more prepared for college-level rigor and success AT ANY UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE, and, may earn college credit at a very inexpensive cost compared to college tuition rates by earning a 4 or 5 (or usually also a 3) on the AP Exam.

Sophomore year is a crucial time: Students' grades—and the classes they take—are significant because college admissions personnel will review classes and GPA from this year and junior year as the two most significant of high school. Therefore, it is imperative that students take academics very seriously and enroll in the most rigorous courses appropriate for them. As a dedicated teacher, I commit to teaching your scholars the skills necessary to be successful in AP World History, but it is up to students' individual determination (vs. parent/teacher/peers) to apply those skills and be motivated enough to do the required work. **Because students can't transfer out of an AP course after the first progress reporting period**, I would fail to do my job if I didn't emphasize the level of rigor and high expectations set for success in AP World History. Students in AP classes rarely succeed if they don't want to be in AP, and only enrolled due to parent/peer/outside pressure. It is important for your family to have an authentic conversation about this to determine if AP/college-level rigor is appropriate this year. I'm eager to support you on the journey and appreciate your ambition!

VIDEO DISCLAIMER

In order to make history more exciting and “come alive” from the past, exposing your child more personally to meaningful events, places and influential people, we will sometimes view documentaries, movies and video clips throughout the duration of this class to supplement the textbook and coursework. Each video is valuable for history, is aligned with California and/or College Board standards and curriculum, and most are intended for a general audience. On rare occasions, however, some clips may contain some language, violence and/or adult concepts that are of a PG-13 or R rated nature (ex. “Schindler’s List” about the Holocaust). As an adult who values professionalism, I view all videos in advance, and skip over/fast forward through video content that is not of academic value (ie. anything sexually explicit or shocking just for the sake of entertainment). I only show the academic and appropriate content of each video. **Unless you specifically state otherwise on the comments portion/back of the AP World History Policy & Contract form you will be signing this week, I will assume your child has permission to view all class videos and partake in all class activities** (otherwise s/he will be placed in another classroom with an alternative assignment).