**AP European History**

**2014-15**

I grew up in Europe, where the history comes from.

*--Eddie Izzard, British Actor and Comedian*

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**Welcome**

Welcome to Advanced Placement European History! I hope you are as excited about taking this course as I am about teaching it. I expect this to be a year of interesting conversations, hard work and lots of learning! We are all coming from different places (both figuratively and literally), but share a passion for history. Although spring seems very far away now, I can guarantee you that the time will fly and before you know it we will be reviewing for the AP exam on May 14th. As we begin our journey, let me leave you with these words:

*I do not promise you ease. I do not promise you comfort.*

*But I do promise you these hardships: weariness and suffering.*

 *And with them, I promise you victory.*
- Giuseppe Garibaldi

**Course Description**

AP European History is designed to be a college level course that prepares students for the Advanced Placement Examination in European History and provide students with an in-depth overview of European History from the Late Middle Ages to the very recent past. We will look at this history through several different lenses: political/diplomatic, intellectual/cultural and social/economic. Students will be expected to have a mastery of the basic chronology and major events and trends from the Renaissance through the modern day.

**Academic Goals**

The AP curriculum demands higher-order thinking skills within a rigorous academic context. Throughout the year, students will not only gain a deeper understanding of Modern European History, they will also continue to refine their skills as a historian. Specifically, they will:

* know the principles of historical research and analysis;
* be able to trace, relate and understand the significant developments of modern European History;
* communicate clearly and persuasively about historical events, trends and ideas, in both written and orally;
* be able to work effectively in teams and in pairs;
* understand the political geography of Europe and how it has changed over time;
* interpret maps, charts and graphs;
* analyze, synthesize and gather information to draw historical conclusions.

# Class Expectations

As this class is a senior elective, students will be expected to work independently and manage their time effectively. In order to succeed academically, all members of the class must meet the following basic expectations:

* attend class regularly and be on time;
* complete daily homework assignments *carefully* and be prepared to discuss them in class;
* participate actively in class discussion and all class activities;
* give class your complete and undivided attention while you are here—**no texting, tweeting or doing work from other classes;**
* track any missing assignments or make-up work independently, with the help of classmates.

# Grading/Assessment:

80% of your grade will be comprised of test, quiz and essay grades. 15% will be based on your performance on daily and long-term homework assignments. The remaining 5% will reflect your performance in class.

**The AP European History Exam**

This year’s Advanced Placement Exam in European History is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 14, 2013** in the afternoon. ***Students who take AP Euro are expected to take the exam as well.*** If you have concerns about paying the exam fees, please see Mr. Drake.

The examination is three hours and five minutes in length. It consists of a 55 minute multiple-choice section and a 130 minute free response section. The multiple-choice section accounts for 50% of the total exam score. The free response section is the other half, and is broken down as follows: the document-based essay (DBQ) is 45% and the two free response questions (FRQ) are 55%. We will talk about the process of preparing for and taking the AP exam as the year goes on.

**Extra Help**

Struggling in a challenging course such as AP Euro is nothing to be ashamed of—but suffering in silence and not asking for help is! I am more than happy to meet with you any day before or after school or during my free blocks (C, F and E) to discuss your progress or help you with strategies. Remember, we will be moving at a fast pace; do not fall behind early!