Comparative Civilizations 12 Course Description and Outline

Course Description

- Comparative Civilizations 12 offers a sample study of a variety of civilizations focusing primarily on ancient history. However, the study of the ancients is not an anachronistic pursuit as many aspects of historical and cultural influences are revealed within their past. Many relevant and vibrant themes that continue to influence humanity are revealed within studies of the ancient world civilizations and their cultural roots. Mythology, government, philosophy, art, architecture, and theatre are just some of the pertinent areas of human culture within civilizations that are explored within course studies. Moreover, these themes are developed within a framework of understanding their relevance for us today. As well, importance of understanding the plurality of the multicultural nature of our world is enhanced.

- An added focus provided for students is the exploration of travel in complementing an understanding of peoples, cultures, and environments across the globe. A wide variety of opportunities for studying ancient civilizations are provided including extensive class discussions, video excerpts, one major group research project, an ethical philosophical debate and slide presentations.

- Comparative Civilizations 12 is catered to enhancing the interest level of all students taking the course and students’ success will be based upon their participation and engagement in the course material.

- Homework assignments will be assigned but in a manner which considers the students’ enjoyment of the course. As well, assessment often involves the employment of open notes quizzes and tests allowing students to decide how much work they desire to commit to the course in determining their overall grade. However, although the course is intended to offer less formative evaluation than some other senior electives, students are reminded that certain expectations are expected by the instructor such as completion of any assignments and most importantly, punctuality, attendance and participation in course activities.

Supplies, Materials and Textbooks

- Students are highly recommended to have a three-ring binder as well as lined paper and pens. Students may record notes on laptops or tablet technology but will not be provided access to electrical power outlets.

- One textbook is issued to students and students are reminded to please keep the textbook in good condition while using it and not to lose it as the replacement cost is a hefty $90.00! The textbook is titled: Echoes from the Past and will be used at different points in course studies throughout the year.

Approximate itemized percentages for each reporting term (1,2,3)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate %’s for Term 1 + 3</th>
<th>Approximate %’s in Term 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open notes Quizzes/Tests</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizenship/Activity Engagement</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Test: Multiple Choice</td>
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<td>Open notes Quizzes/Tests</td>
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<td>Citizenship/Activity Engagement</td>
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<td>Term Test: Multiple Choice</td>
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Year by term percentage breakdown

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Year-end Test</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximate %’s</td>
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- Each term there I be comprised completely of 90 to 100 multiple choice questions. There is no written component on term tests.

- Please note that students must attend all three term tests at the time they are scheduled unless an authorized medical or personal matter excuse has been received by the instructor. For the sake of integrity and fairness to all students, term exams must be written by every student at the allocated place and time.

- Cheating, of course, will be treated as a serious breach of trust and will result in a score of zero and possible intervention by an administrator and/or notification of the misconduct to parents or guardians.
General Pattern of Study Topics

Term One
Pre-Civilization human existence
Cradle of Civilization: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel.
The early Greeks

Relevant themes to be explored in Term One: defining civilization, archeology, the importance of the environment, Humans pre-occupation with death and the after-life and immortality.

Term Two
Classical Greek Civilization.
Mythologies of the World (Student presentations).
Relevant themes to be explored in Term Two: democracy, art, architecture, philosophy and ethics, drama and comedy, cults.

Term Three
Central American Civilization: Mayans and Aztecs.
Ancient China
Relevant themes to be explored in Term Three: violence in entertainment/sports, human sacrifice in an ancient and modern context, philosophical schools of thought and their effect on the human condition.

Course Activities Highlights

Term One
Johnston's Journeys slide presentations: Egypt and Israel

Term Two
World Mythologies Group Presentations; Johnston's Journeys slide presentation: Greece; Philosophical Symposium on Ethics

Term Three
Johnston's Journeys slide presentation: the Maya: The ancient ruins at Chichenitza
World Music Presentation ($5 workshop fee to be collected near the presentation date in May/June)
Johnston’s Journey’s slide presentation: China

Noteworthy Considerations

General Student Expectations: Students are expected to adhere to the school Code of Conduct specified in the School Agenda. Normal classroom protocol is also required. Thus, students are expected to attend regularly, be on time for class, bring proper materials to the classroom and participate in classroom activities. Respect for each individual in the class and personal viewpoints on issues is a primary condition for a positive engagement in classroom activities.

Comparative Civilizations 12 Commitment: punctuality, attendance, involvement in classroom activities, completion of assignments, respect for diversity of opinion.

Attendance and Punctuality: A note from home is required for any absence and must include the date and the reason for absence. If a student will be absent from a class for a club or sports commitment or due to the request of another teacher, they must speak to the instructor ahead of time. Students are expected to arrive on time and if late, and the classroom door is closed, after knocking please wait until the instructor opens the door at a convenient time.

Assignments: It is the student's responsibility to have assignments completed on time. If absent, students are expected to find out what the assignment was and hand it in the following class. Marks will be deducted for late and/or incomplete work. Students should not attempt to email assignments to the instructor unless consulting first with the instructor.

Assessment: Students will be assessed in a number of ways in order to provide a balanced evaluation of their performance. Assessment is based upon standards of expectations consistent with the learning outcomes prescribed within the provincially developed curriculum.

Benefits in taking Comparative Civilizations 12: relevance of the past to the present, the development of an understanding of the diversity and plurality of humankind. Foundational knowledge for a variety of post-secondary courses such as Anthropology, Archaeology, Classical Studies, Asian Studies and Ancient History.
An awareness of the potential for the personal growth in experiencing other cultures and ways of life through travel.

Online Support Available: Students are greatly advised to consult the online resources provided for Comparison Civilization 12 students by the instructor which include Study Guides, Power point Presentations and Video links for review of in-class activities. To access the website, students merely need to log into this web address: http://lordbyng.net/socials/ OR log onto the Lord Byng School website, go to Departments, go to Social Studies and click on the link http://lordbyng.net/socials/