

High School Course Description: History

From middle school onwards, GISB students follow the history of mankind chronologically from its beginnings through ancient civilizations and the history of the Middle Ages to the consequences of the American and French Revolutions. Students also deal with cultural, economic, and social transformation processes, among other things. In doing so, they acquire the basics and methods of historical work, such as analyzing written and visual sources and statistics or examining their own and scientific theses, which are further developed in high school.

Building on the topics covered in middle school, the focus is on historical issues that had a decisive influence on the 20th century and set the course for the 21st century. The German, European, and international perspective is taken into account at all times. In this way, GISB students cover in depth the central content of ***AP European History*** and ***AP World History: Modern***.

In high school history lessons, students acquire subject-specific skills that build on existing skills, attitudes, and interpretations and aim to expand and deepen them. These include:

- **Professional competence** includes the ability to recognize and interpret historical facts and developments. Students learn to understand past events and their significance and to critically analyze existing interpretations.
- **Methodological competence** includes the application of historical research methods. This includes asking questions about the past, obtaining and analyzing information, and developing and presenting their own historical arguments.
- **Judgment skills** enable students to formulate well-founded judgments about historical events. Both factual and value-related criteria are taken into account to ensure the appropriateness and coherence of the arguments.
- **Competence to act** refers to the practical application of historical knowledge in everyday life. Pupils learn to expand their understanding of history, use historical knowledge for their personal orientation, and actively participate in social discussions.



The lessons are scientifically propaedeutic. The focus is on teaching critical historical awareness, multi-perspective explanatory models, and critical thinking, which should enable the student to participate maturely in social and political life in the 21st century.

In addition, history classes teach all the skills that are also acquired in **AP European History** and **AP World History: Modern**. These skills include:

- Evaluating primary and secondary sources
- Analyzing the claims, evidence, and reasoning found in sources
- Putting historical developments in context and making connections among them
- Coming up with a claim or thesis and explaining and supporting it in writing

Content:

As part of a spiral curriculum, central topics from Grades 9 and 10 are explored in greater depth at an expert level in Grades 11 and 12. A detailed list of the content covered each year in our intensive history curriculum can be found below.

Grade 9

- Imperialism and the First World War
- Rise of the USA as a world power
- From tsarist empire to world power: Soviet Union
- Europe between dictatorship and democracy: the Weimar Republic
- National Socialism and the Second World War
- The world after 1945

Grade 10

- Germany after 1945
- The development of the two German states
- The world after 1990
- International politics

Grade 11

- Germany and Europe since the foundation of the German Empire in 1871
- German Empire
- Imperialism and colonialism
- First World War



- Weimar Republic
- National Socialism, Fascism, Totalitarianism
- Second World War

Grade 12

- Germany and Europe in the context of world history
 - Post-war period
 - Cold War
 - History of divided Germany (East and West Germany and reunification)
- Aspects of world history
 - German history up to the present day
 - European unification process
 - World in the 20th/21st century

Textbook / Informational Text Reading Amount:

We currently use the following textbooks as a basis for our work:

- Zeitreise 3, Klett, Edition 1, 2015
- History course book, Cornelsen, Edition 1, 2017

Types of Large Assessments in this Course:

- Written exams (one each semester), projects, presentations