I. Purpose and Objectives

History is an inquiry based discipline that requires interpretation and analysis by engaging in multiple types of sources and pursuing answers through various, sometimes competing, perspectives.

The IB history course “encourages students to think historically and to develop historical skills as well as factual information.”

The key concepts of historical investigation are “Change, Continuity, Causation, Consequence Significance, and Perspective.”

Student objectives for this course include:

1. To learn factual information about the past (Lectures, Readings, Documentaries).
2. To develop the skills of a historian
   A. Asking proper historical questions (Questions that do not have an answer but may have several answers, or are, as of yet, unanswered).
      1. Why did things happen the way they did (and not a different way, at a different time, at a different place)?
      2. What caused historical change?
      3. What caused historical continuity?
      4. What were the effects of historical change?
      5. What were the effects of historical continuity?
      6. Why are these effects important?
      7. Are there biases, limitations, or assumptions that are influencing the answers to these questions?
   B. Answer historical questions properly and succinctly through a thesis. (Short answers, discussion)
   C. Defend theses with well reasoned arguments (Essays, research papers, presentations, debates)
II. Grading:
Grades will be comprised of Exams, Quizzes, Projects, Homework, and Participation. In the senior year, there will also be IB Papers 1, 2, and 3, and an internal assessment (IA).
**Grading will be based on county-decided percentages.**

**Assessments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formative assessments (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, etc…)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summative assessments (Exams, Major Presentations, Major Projects, etc…)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
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*Some assignments may be weighted differently for various reasons, but these are the overall guidelines.*

III. Course Content
The IB history course is designed to give students and teachers the opportunity to study specific areas of history in depth. As such, the overall IB course contains topics that cover a wide variety of historical periods and cultures; however, in order to reach the level of depth required, teachers must limit their course to specific topics and periods.

This class will cover the medieval to the early modern period with a concentration in Europe and the Middle East.

A more detailed outline of the course can be found on my website - [jcunningham.org](http://jcunningham.org)
This website is often a work in progress with new things being added and updated.

Students will take three (3) IB exams (External Assessments) in May of their senior year. In addition, students will complete an Internal Assessment (IA) sometimes called an Historical Investigation (HI), which is essentially a research paper. These assessments will make up their IB history grade for the IBO in the determination of rewarding their IB diploma.
IV. Academic Honesty
In accordance with county policy and IB policy, students are expected to complete their own work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, nor will any form of academic dishonesty. Violation of this policy will result in a grade of zero being assessed for that work, as well as an administrative disciplinary referral, and a referral to the IB office.

Any form of academic dishonesty as defined in the Douglas County School Handbook and/or IB policies will be enforced. Any dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, collusion, outside sources during assessments, etc., will be given a grade of a Zero (0). The Zero will remain and no extra credit will add any points or remove the Zero. This zero will also be exempt from any “drop the lowest” decision. (i.e. If you get a zero for cheating, it is there for the rest of the year.)

V. Policies
Textbook
There is no text book for this class. Readings will be assigned through the year.

Lost Book Policy
Board Policy Descriptive Code: IFAD
The student will be charged full replacement cost for any textbook lost, regardless of condition. The amount to be charged for a textbook damaged by a student will be determined by the principal.

Make-Up Work
It is the responsibility of each student to complete all work missed due to an absence from class. **Make up work for excused absence** - One (1) day for each day absent. If the assignment was assigned before the absence, then the student will be responsible to email any assignment that can be emailed on, or before the due date by the end of the school day. Other assignments will be expected to be turned in on the day of return. Make-up quizzes and tests will be scheduled following the absence. (Note- students may be expected to take an assessment during the return class period, or may be expected to schedule a time). After this make-up time, any missing assignment will be given a grade of Zero (0). Additional time may be given if communication is made from the student to the teacher. At the end of a progress period (9 weeks) all missing work will be given a grade of a Zero (0), and the work will not be allowed to be made up. **Make-up work for unexcused absence** - may not be allowed to be made up and a grade of a zero (0) will stand.

There will be no make-up for presentations that are not completed on a scheduled time (unless in a dire emergency as determined by me).
**Late Work**
Assignments are expected to be completed and turned in on time, (before class begins on the due date of an assignment). Work turned in late will suffer a 10% penalty to the final grade for that assignment, with an additional 10% for each day late. No work will be accepted if more than five (5) days late unless accompanied by an excused absence form, and only if the assignment was not one that could be emailed. All assignments are to be completely ready to be turned in before class begins. Any assignment that is late, whether it is due to it not being printed, stapled, student tardiness to class, etc..., is late and will be penalized. **Assignments turned in during the same day or even the same class period after being collected will be considered late.**

An Assignment that was supposed to be typed and was turned in hand-written will also receive a 10% penalty because it is assumed that the student could type the assignment and turn it in late. Computer/Technology problems are not an excuse for late work. If it is important, make back-ups.

**VI. Misc.**
**Required Materials**
- Pen, blue or black ink only - for things turned in.
- Three highlighters of different colors.
- Paper
- A flash drive will probably come in handy.

**Classroom Rules**
1. Tardiness: Will not be tolerated. Chronic tardiness will result in an administrative referral. Be seated and prepared to begin class when the bell rings.
2. Class Disruption: Zero level tolerance. There will be plenty of opportunity for each student to participate fully, to ask questions, engage in discussion and debate during the course of this class. However, all such activity will be done in an orderly and respectful manner and as directed by the instructor.
3. Be Prepared to Work: Bring all required materials to class each day and be ready to discuss assigned readings and to otherwise participate fully in class.
4. No Electronic devices: You may not use or have out an mp3 player/recorder, etc…
5. Cell Phone Policy: This class will follow the DCHS cell phone color code system.
6. Food and Drink: Drinks allowed; no food.
7. ...

**VII. Reading Assignments**
Reading assignments may be handed out or given an online link. However, students are required to have reading assignments available each class period.
VIII. Tutoring
Tutoring is by appointment only.

IX. Communication
I can be reached at John.Cunningham@douglas.k12.ga.us
The phone to the office is 770-651-6500.

I have a website with helpful information at jcunningham.org

Please scan, photograph, or make a copy of this syllabus for your reference.

Student Signature__________________________________________________________

Parent Signature____________________________________________________________

Signature acknowledges receipt and understudying of the syllabus, acknowledgement that it may be changed, and that a photograph, scan, or copy has been made for reference.

**Syllabus and/or outline is subject to change**