**COMPARATIVE CIV. & RELGION 12 AT A GLANCE**

This course will examine and compare historical, political, social, economic and geographic aspects of human cultural development. We’ll review the development of artistic, religious and philosophic ideas of Ancient civilizations, as well as the development of culture through art, architecture, cuisine, religion, philosophy and history. Other themes we will study include gender, ethics, and environmental factors that influence culture.

**UNIT I:**

**PRE-CIVILIZATION & RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS**

**Sapiens/ Fertile Crescent/ Indus/ Orient**

**Broad Focus Questions (Learning Outcomes)**

1. Are we certain that human origins lie in Africa?

2. What factors contributed to the Neolithic Revolution? How did the Neolithic Revolution pave the way for the first civilizations?

3. Where were the first river civilizations located? What geographical challenges did they overcome in order to establish their civilization? How did they overcome these challenges? What role did rivers play in the development of civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Indus Valley, Chinese Civilizations?

4. What are the most important achievements of river valley civilizations?

**Assessment Summary**

Assignment #1: Pre-Civilization

Assignment #2: Prehistoric Art & Symbolism

Assignment #3: Origin Stories

Assignment #3: River Valley Civilizations Chart

Assignment #4: River Valley Civilizations One Pager

Quiz #1: Pre-Civilization & River Valley Civilizations

**UNIT II: GRECO-ROMAN STUDIES**

**Myth/ Mediterranean World/ Empires**

**Broad focus questions (Learning Outcomes)**

1. What do myths, legends and histories tell us about Greco-Roman civilizations? What is more important – knowing history or understanding it?

2. Athenian democracy or the Roman Republic?

3. What factors in Ancient Greece limited their expansion in the Mediterranean and what factors in Ancient Rome allowed for expansion?

4. Can it be argued that the Greeks developed the ideas that the Romans built on and disseminated? Which civilization was more instrumental in shaping the western World?

5. What attitudes existed vis-à-vis women, their place in society, as well for those in the LGBTQ community?

**Assessment Summary**

Assignment #5: Myths & Legends

Assignment #6: Classical Greece

Assignment #7: Rise of Rome

Assignment #8: Greco-Roman One Pager

Quiz #2: Greco-Roman Civilizations

**UNIT III: WORLD RELIGIONS**

**Christianity/Islam/Judaic/Hinduism/Buddhism**

**Broad Focus Questions (Learning Incomes)**

1. What are the geographical and historical contexts of the primary religions of the world? Relevance?

2. What are the primary religions of the world, their defining beliefs, practices, texts and traditions?

3. How can religion shape social, political, legal and environmental values across a society?

4. What are the potential implications of various religious beliefs, practices and traditions for living in contemporary society?

5. In what ways is religion ‘mediated’ by contemporary society and how does this inform our world view of religion and culture beyond our own?

**Assessment Summary**

Assignment #10: Comparative Religions Chart

Assignment #11: Religion and Contemporary Society

Assignment #12: Religious Studies One Pager

Quiz #3: Religious Studies

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| **UNIT IV: INDIGENOUS SOCIETIES**  **Australasia/Polynesia/ Mesoamerica/Pacific** |

**Broad Focus Questions (Learning Outcomes)**

1. How are identities, worldviews and languages of indigenous peoples renewed, sustained and transformed by way of the land and sea?

2. What value and belief systems shape the structures of power and authority within a culture?

3.What has been the impact of contact and colonialism on indigenous societies through history?

4. How are the characteristics of indigenous societies, across time and place, common to other historic societies (as well as unique and diverse…)?

**Assessment Summary**

Assignment #13:Comparative Indigenous Study

Quiz #4: Indigenous Societies

**UNIT V: WESTERN CIVILIZATION\***

**Dark Ages/Middle Ages/Renaissance**

**Basic Focus Questions (Learning Outcomes)**

1. To what degree can the ‘church’ be credited with preserving and nurturing western civilization?

2. What elements of civilization rebound (and dramatically) in Europe after the Dark Ages and with the onset of the Renaissance?

3. What evidence was there to suggest that medieval Europe was a violent, male dominated society rooted in inequality?

4. What social and demographic changes occurred in Europe during the period from the Dark Ages to the Renaissance?

**Assessment Summary**

Assignment #14: the Power of Religion

Quiz #5: the Resurgence of Western Civilization

\*If timing allows……..

**Evaluation Breakdown**

Participation 10%

Assignments 45%

Quizzes 25%

Book Review & Presentation 10%

Take Home Final 10%