

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
AND
FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
DoDEA 10th Grade Integrated Honors
World History and Literature

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) and the Federal Education Association (FEA) hereby agree to implement the new 10th Grade Integrated Honors World History and Literature course in accordance with the attached guidance beginning in school year 2004-2005.



Paul Wolfe

Human Resources Director, DoDEA

July 27, 2004



Sheridan Pearce

FEA President

July 27, 2004

Priority Union Issues

Topic: 10th grade Integrated Honors World History and Literature

Date Decision Needed: July/August Implementation

Background: The 10th grade Integrated Honors World History and Literature course is designed to provide 10th grade students with a consistent, rigorous honors course that better prepares students for Advanced Placement opportunities in 11th and 12th grades. This integrated course focuses on interdisciplinary opportunities that explore in-depth chronological and thematic perspectives of World History (1500 to present) and World Literature. Initial course development began in January of 2004. Union representatives and other teachers and liaisons provided input and direction to the course. It is written with a substantial focus on high-level rigorous research, reading, writing, and presentation and addresses the standards for both content areas.

Process:

Training

March 2004

- Course development and training for small group of developers; union reps attended.

June 2004

- Professional development training was conducted in Nashua, New Hampshire, June, 2004. There were 101 teachers and liaisons/specialists at the training. 49 high schools were represented.
- The Honors training covered the basic syllabus, materials and resources, the Blackboard site for teachers, grading, and team planning. Teachers began lesson planning during the training.
- Participants had the opportunity to collaborate with team mates and other teachers within the same district or area.

Winter 2005

- Additional support for 10th grade honors teachers will be provided through the area/district specialists and the Blackboard on-line Community.

Summer 2005

- Training for teachers new to the 10th grade Honors course will be provided.

Implementation

- Headquarters and area liaisons in Social Studies and ELA will monitor and support the implementation.
- Course materials have been ordered and are being distributed during Summer 2004.
- Teacher feedback will be collected electronically on a quarterly basis.
- A Blackboard site will be maintained to provide a site for new resources, information on instructional strategies and suggestions for activities or collaborative projects.

- Although this is an honors course, students will not receive a weighted grade. There will be one grade for the course that is reflective of progress toward the integration of World History and Literature as outlined in the course syllabus. This grade will be shown on the transcript under each separate listing of the course.
- Teachers will have one day a quarter for the first, second, and third quarters to meet, reflect on needed or suggested modifications, and plan the following quarter. Local areas may choose from two options: a single day at the end of the quarter or two half days spaced throughout the quarter. This time facilitates team planning and grading but the days should be available for all 10th grade honors teachers even if there is only one teacher for the course in the school.
- Summer 05 – A small group of 10th grade teachers (we recommended 35) will meet to modify the syllabus and identify additional curricular and instructional resources/materials. These folks will also look at student work related to the major integrated projects and suggest ways to improve the directions, materials or evaluation.

Scope:

All secondary schools whose teachers attended the summer training will implement the Integrated Honors course in School Year 2004-2005.

Time Frame:

Course is being implemented in school year 2004-2005.

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GAP



Honors World History and Literature 10

Grading Student Work

The Honors World History and Literature 10 course has been developed to provide students with challenges to their thinking that extend beyond the Social Studies and ELA standards. The interconnections across the two disciplines engage students in learning how the two disciplines may offer different perspectives on the body of knowledge contained in each. Course goals and the course syllabus define the content, context, and skills of the course and provide teachers with clear expectations for the selection of themes and questions for study.

In the Honors course students are engaged more in studying the broader concepts related to both of the disciplines than in acquiring specialized knowledge unique to each of them. Although the standards for each discipline are critical components of the course as building blocks, the interconnected work across the disciplines should receive the most attention in class activities. Students should engage in improving critical reading, thinking, speaking, writing, and research, as well as the examination of history and literature from different perspectives. Thus, in grading students for their performance in the Honors class, teachers should give significant consideration to their growth in connecting the disciplines.

Guidelines for grading students in Honors World History and Literature 10 have been established and serve as the starting point for dialogue among students and teachers and for the articulation of grades to parents/guardians and the school community. End-of-year tasks have been developed as vehicles for the students' expressions of their cumulative learning. These assessments are designed to carry significant weight in the grading process.

Teachers should familiarize themselves with the guidelines for grading the honors course and the chart defining the components and weights for the quarterly and final grades. In addition, teachers should encourage students to engage in self-assessment, peer reviews, and reflections on teacher feedback as mechanisms for personal growth.

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Honors World History and Literature 10

Guidelines for Grading

1. The Honors World History and Literature 10 is **one** course. Therefore, for each marking period, students receive one grade reported two times to accommodate the transcript listings of World History and English Literature.
2. Assessment strategies and report card grades are determined by classroom teachers (World History and Literature) working collaboratively.
3. Assessments represent learning at the end of units or periods of time after students have had a chance to practice and take risks with learning and strategies.
4. Students know which assessments count in determining their report card grade.
5. Assessments cover three areas: World History standards, ELA standards, and the combined course objectives related to the interdisciplinary connections in history and literature articulated through discussions, writings, and performances.
6. A variety of methods are used to fairly assess student achievement in working towards the standards and the course objectives.
7. Assessments are scored as appropriate to the requirements of the activity/task/performance. Student self-assessment and teacher feedback on performance are important components.
8. Grades are based on student achievement of learning goals. Such goals are articulated in World History, ELA, and interdisciplinary connections.
9. The student's more recent, most consistent level of performance in meeting/exceeding standards guides the teachers' judgment in determining a student's grade. Summative performances count heavily.
10. Summary information on student achievement, including samples of student work are available as evidence of achievement.

Grading Honors World History and Literature 10

Component/Weight	Description	Examples
History Standards 25%	Performance related to World History standards and extended World History learning expectations beyond standards.	<i>The World History teacher has 8 requirements (projects, quizzes, classroom activities)) for the first quarter and evaluates each of them to derive a quarterly summary grade/weight for World History.</i>
English Standards 25%	Performance related to ELA standards and extended ELA/Literature learning expectations beyond standards.	<i>The English teacher has required students to complete 15 specific assignments and has assessed students on ELA standards with 3 quizzes and a writing portfolio. The teacher completes a summary grade/weight for ELA standards.</i>
Interconnections within History or English Class (Jointly developed) 20%	Performance related to joint activities and/or jointly defined learning expectations.	<p><i>The two teachers have agreed to share responsibility for four activities related to the course objectives, interconnecting their disciplines. The student products are assessed and graded according to jointly agreed upon criteria.</i></p> <p><i>Two of the activities are Socratic Seminars on topics related to the themes. One seminar occurs in each of the classrooms at some time during the quarter.</i></p> <p><i>The other two activities are papers which focus on an essential question, requiring students to incorporate ideas from history and from literature. Teachers jointly grade the papers, each identifying key points related to their respective disciplines and the joint course objectives.</i></p>
Joint Assessment of Quarterly/Final Project 30%	Performance related to the major course project.	<i>Teachers use the criteria established for the performance task to evaluate and grade students each quarter.</i>
Report Card Grade (Quarter or Final)	Student's quarterly and final grades are derived from the weights indicated for each component of the course. The same grade is recorded for World History and for ELA.	

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DoDEA High School Honors Courses

Questions and Answers

What honors courses will be available to DoDEA high school students in the future?

One new honors course will be available for tenth grade students in SY 2004-2005: Honors World History and Literature. This is a two-credit course, with one credit offered in Social Studies and one in English. In SY 2005-2006 a similar two-credit course will be offered for ninth grade students. Schools currently offering Honors English 9 may continue to do so for SY 2004-2005. Once the new honors courses are implemented, the current Honors English 9 will no longer be available.

The 9th and 10th grade English and Social Studies Honors courses are the only ones planned for the future. AP offerings in mathematics, science and other areas already provide multiple offerings for students seeking advanced courses.

Why are changes being made in DoDEA honors course offerings?

The changes in honors courses are being made to expand advanced course offerings for ninth and tenth grade. The changes will also provide a standard DoDEA course syllabus and selected materials for these courses. Students in eleventh and twelfth grades will be guided to take AP courses in lieu of previous Honors English.

Why start with 10th grade instead of 9th grade?

As part of the High School Initiative, the decision to offer integrated Social Studies and Literature honors courses for grades 9 and 10 was made. Since text materials are available for 10th grade and not for 9th, the decision was made to begin with 10th grade.

How do honors courses fit into the DoDEA high school curriculum?

As a result of the High School Initiative, all DoDEA high schools have begun seeking additional courses to challenge and support students and to prepare for new graduation requirements that lead all students toward higher achievement. The new honors courses are part of this initiative, helping to add to the list of more challenging course offerings.

How should the Honors World History and Literature course be staffed and scheduled?

The course may be taught by one or two teachers. How to arrange for the English component and the Social Studies component within the schedule is a local school decision. The components must be scheduled to ensure students are taught for the required amount of time for one credit in each content area.



How are honors courses different from other high school courses?

Honors courses provide students with stronger emphases on interdisciplinary connections, advanced content, applied critical thinking, and extensive classroom dialogue focused on the literature and social studies themes. Many of the learning strategies used will prepare students for future AP courses. All honors students will be required to complete extensive readings and writings as well as an original research project.

Will honors courses have end-of-course exams?

In lieu of an end-of-course exam, a required research project integrating learning from history and literature will be used as assessments for the courses.

Who can enroll in honors courses?

Honors courses are available to all DoDEA students who are at the appropriate grade level. All students, including incoming students, should be made aware of the honors offerings and encouraged to consider the challenge.

Should AVID students be encouraged to take honors courses?

Yes, AVID students' participation in the Honors World History and Literature course and in the future 9th grade course would be most appropriate.

Will honors courses have weighted grades?

No weight will be applied to the honors course grades. Student transcripts will indicate by course title that the student received credit in a rigorous honor course. A decision was made to weight only AP courses since these are courses have a standardized, internationally recognized course syllabus and examination set.

What training will be available to teachers of honors courses?

All teachers assigned honors courses will be provided with professional development prior to teaching the course. The training sessions will guide them through the expectations for honors courses, the course syllabus, appropriate teaching and learning strategies, the resource materials selected for the courses, and assessment components of the courses.

A syllabus for the Honors 10 World History and Literature course and a list of selected texts and resource materials are being developed by a work group of instructional specialists and teachers. All course work will be aligned with the DoDEA Language Arts and Social Studies Standards. Next year the syllabus for the ninth grade honors course will be developed.

Can schools offer the new honors course if teachers are not trained?

Teachers must participate in the DoDEA honors course training prior to teaching the course. For those schools unable to offer the course in SY 2004-2005, another teacher training opportunity will be provided in the summer of 2005.

LS
SAP

Can schools still offer a regular World History course?

Yes, the World History course remains one of the Social Studies offerings. Ninth grade students who indicate a desire to enroll in honors in grade 10 may want to consider a different Social Studies offering for grade 9.

If a student took World History in 9th grade, can he get World History credit again with the honors course?

Yes, the World History in 10th grade Honors is just one component of an integrated two-credit course. It is a different course and will be so indicated on the transcript.

Will honors courses be available through distance learning?

The initial offerings of honors courses will be at the local schools. In the future the feasibility of online offerings will be explored.

What will be emphasized in the curriculum for honors courses?

Honors courses will be based on current DoDEA standards in Language Arts and Social Studies. What differentiates the courses is the interdisciplinary emphasis, the advanced content, as well as the strong emphasis on critical thinking and reasoning. Students will be expected to apply their learning in class discussions and through original writing and research.

How will grades be determined and recorded for the Honors World History and Literature course?

Students in the course are assessed based on the interdisciplinary goals of the combined course. Students may prepare and receive feedback from the teacher/s on some separate assignments in each discipline. The purpose of this feedback would be to ensure specific knowledge and skills in the separate disciplines. However, grading for the course will be determined by the work students do on the integrated nature of the course. That is, there will be one grade for the course which is reflective of progress toward the integration of World History and Literature as outlined in the course syllabus. This grade will be shown on the transcript under each separate listing of the course.

Where can I get more information about DoDEA honors courses?

The point of contact at DoDEA Headquarters for information on honors courses is Dr. Jill Burruss. Jill can be reached at jburruss@hq.odedodea.edu.