

History

I. Course description and aims

The DP History course is a world history course based on a comparative and multi-perspective approach to history. It involves the study of a variety of types of history, including political, economic, social and cultural, and provides a balance of structure and flexibility.

The course emphasizes the importance of encouraging students to think historically and to develop historical skills as well as gaining factual knowledge. It puts a premium on developing the skills of critical thinking, and on developing an understanding of multiple interpretations of history. In this way, the course involves a challenging and demanding critical exploration of the past. Teachers explicitly teach thinking and research skills such as comprehension, text analysis, transfer, and use of primary sources.

There are six key concepts that have particular prominence throughout the DP History course: change, continuity, causation, consequence, significance and perspectives.

The aims of the DP History course are to enable students to:

1. develop an understanding of, and continuing interest in, the past
2. encourage students to engage with multiple perspectives and to appreciate the complex nature of historical concepts, issues, events and developments
3. promote international-mindedness through the study of history from more than one region of the world
4. develop an understanding of history as a discipline and to develop historical consciousness including a sense of chronology and context, and an understanding of different historical perspectives
5. develop key historical skills, including engaging effectively with sources
6. increase students' understanding of themselves and of contemporary society by encouraging reflection on the past.

II. Curriculum model overview

Prescribed subject: Rights and protest: Civil Rights and the USA & Apartheid South Africa

This prescribed subject focuses on struggles for rights and freedoms in the mid-20th century. Two case studies are prescribed, from two different regions of the world. The first case study explores the civil rights movement in the US in the 1950s and 60s, from its rise to prominence to its fracturing in the late 1960s. The second case study explores protests against apartheid in South Africa. It focuses specifically on the years 1948–1964, beginning with the election of the National Party in 1948 and ending with the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela and his co-defendants following the Rivonia trial in 1964.

World history topics:

• Authoritarian states (20th century)

This topic focuses on exploring the conditions that facilitated the rise of authoritarian states in the 20th century, as well as the methods used by parties and leaders to take and maintain power. We will compare and contrast how Castro in Cuba, Mao in Communist China and Hitler in Germany rose to power, created cult of personalities, dealt with opposition, women and minorities.

• The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)

The Cold War dominated global affairs from the end of the Second World War to the early 1990s. This topic focuses on how superpower rivalries did not remain static but changed according to styles of leadership, strength of ideological beliefs, economic factors and crises involving client states. The topic aims to promote an international perspective on the Cold War by requiring the study of Cold War leaders, countries and crises from places as diverse as Vietnam, Korea, Hungary, Cuba and Afghanistan.

Higher Level options: Depth studies - History of the Americas

- Political developments in the United States (1945–1980) and Canada (1945–1982)
- The Cold War and the Americas (1945–1981)
- Civil rights and social movements in the Americas post-1945

Internal assessment: Historical investigation

This is a unique opportunity to carry out an individual research project and historical investigation on any topic of your choice in the Internal Assessment. In the past, students have chosen to do projects ranging from Cesar's legacy to Augustus, films about Inuit or Eskimo culture, the significance of Joan of Arc, ancient Korean annexations, to the causes of the Cambodian Genocide