Course Description Revised 2012

International Baccalaureate Contemporary World History is the Standard Level (SL) History course, and will culminate in the IB SL History examination in May. International Baccalaureate History of the Americas is the IB Higher Level (HL) History course and represents the second year of a two year course of study culminating in the IB HL History examination in May. The content and much of the evaluation and assessment of both courses is determined by the requirements of the IB program.

Students receive scores from the International Baccalaureate on a scale of 1-7 for all examinations, rather than 1-5 which is used by the College Board. A score of "4" for IB should be considered as a passing grade. A "6" is exceptional, and a "7" is very rare (about 2% of all candidates). The IB History of the Americas examination is the most difficult of all the History examinations, based on international test scores. Nevertheless, I am very confident that, if students do as I ask them to, this course will prepare students very well for the examination.

This score is constructed of several components. The components and weighting are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HL</th>
<th>SL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>Document Based Question</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>World History Topics</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 3</td>
<td>Regional History</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The IB History examination consists of three parts:

**Paper 1** (1 Hour) **A Source Based Analysis (SBA):** I have chosen Prescribed subject 2: The Arab–Israeli conflict 1945-79

“Source Based Analysis” is IB jargon for a Document Based Question.

The structure of an IB SBA is quite different from an Advanced Placement DBQ, with which students are already familiar. Students who have been successful at AP DBQs should be able to adjust to IB DBQs and do very well. IB DBQs isolate Comprehension, Analysis, Evaluation, Application and Synthesis skills with separate questions. Part of my task is to teach you what to expect and how to go about writing them. Once you know the trick, they are easier than AP DBQs.

**Paper 2** (1 hour 30 minutes) **World History Questions:** This paper is written immediately after Paper 1. The student therefore has a block of 2.5 hours of essay examinations on the first day. Students are given 30 questions divided
among 5 World History topics, and must write TWO essays, each from a different topic. The World History Topics are:

**Topic 1:** Causes, practices and effects of wars  
**Topic 2:** Democratic states—challenges and responses  
**Topic 3:** Origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states  
**Topic 4:** Nationalist and independence movements in Africa and Asia and post.1945 Central and Eastern European states  
**Topic 5:** The Cold War

The strategy pursued in this course will be to prepare students to write an essay in **Topics 1 and 5**. Students will be able to answer some questions from Topic 3. Students should remember that, out of a total of 30, they need write only two. They should first look to answer 2 out of 12 from those two Topics.

Students sitting for the SL examination have now completed the course.

**Paper 3** (2 hours 30 minutes) **History of the Americas:** This is the Regional History examination, and will be taken the day after Papers 1 and 2 by those students sitting for the HL examination. Students must write THREE essays out of 24 which are given. IB has provided an outline of twelve topics, each of which will have at two essay questions. Those topics are:

1. Independence movements  
2. Nation-building and challenges  
3. United States Civil War: causes, course and effects 1840.77  
4. The development of modern nations 1865-1929  
5. Emergence of the Americas in global affairs 1880-1929  
6. The Mexican Revolution 1910-40  
7. The Great Depression and the Americas 192939  
8. The Second World War and the Americas 1933-45  
9. Political developments in the Americas after the Second World War 1945-79  
11. Civil rights and social movements in the Americas  
12. Into the 21st century—from the 1980s to 2000

Topics 3 has already been covered in AP US History, and important aspects of Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 11 have also been covered. I will not re-teach US History, but I do plan to review key topics.
My emphasis will be Topics 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10: The Big Stick, Dollar Diplomacy, Moral Diplomacy, The Mexican Revolution, *La Concordancia* in Argentina, Getulio Vargas in Brazil, Impact of World War II on minorities, especially Japanese-Americans and Japanese-Canadians, Fidel Castro in Cuba, Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Regimes and Revolutionary Movements in Latin America.

**The Internal Assessment**

Twenty-five percent (SL) or twenty percent (HL) of the final mark given by IB in History is based on the Internal Assessment. This is a research paper. The Internal Assessment is therefore an integral part of the IB program. **Students who fail to complete the Internal Assessment in a timely fashion will not pass the course.** A separate hand-out will discuss the IA in greater detail.

The IB examination in History is therefore a comprehensive essay examination, requiring HL students to write 6 essays in 5 hours over two days.

Details on the material to be studied are taken from the IB History Subject Guide First Examinations 2010

**Prescribed subject 2: The Arab–Israeli conflict 1945-79** (Paper 01, HL and SL Students)

This prescribed subject addresses the development of the Arab–Israeli conflict from 1945 to 1979. It also requires consideration of the role of outside powers in the conflict either as promoters of tension or mediators in attempts to lessen tensions in the region. The prescribed subject requires study of the political, economic and social issues behind the dispute and the specific causes and consequences of the military clashes between 1948.9 and 1973. The nature and extent of social and economic developments within the disputed territory of Palestine/Israel within the period and their impact on the populations should also be studied. The end date for the prescribed subject is 1979 with the signing of the Egyptian–Israeli peace agreement.

Areas on which the source-based questions will focus are:

- last years of the British Mandate; UNSCOP partition plan and the outbreak of civil war
- British withdrawal; establishment of Israel; Arab response and 1948/49 war
- demographic shifts: the Palestinian diaspora 1947 onwards; Jewish immigration and the economic development of the Israeli state
- Suez Crisis of 1956: role of Britain, France, the United States, the USSR, Israel and the UNO
- Arabism and Zionism; emergence of the PLO
- Six Day War of 1967 and the October War of 1973: causes, course and consequences
World History Topics (Paper 02, HL and SL Students)

Topic 1: Causes, practices and effects of wars

War was a major feature of the 20th century. In this topic the different types of war should be identified, and the causes, practices and effects of these conflicts should be studied.

Major themes

Different types and nature of 20th century warfare
- Civil
- Guerrilla
- Limited war, total war
Origins and causes of wars
- Long-term, short-term and immediate causes
- Economic, ideological, political, religious causes
Nature of 20th century wars
- Technological developments, tactics and strategies, air, land and sea
- Home front: economic and social impact (including changes in the role and status of women)
- Resistance and revolutionary movements
Effects and results of wars
- Peace settlements and wars ending without treaties
- Attempts at collective security pre- and post-Second World War
- Political repercussions and territorial changes
- Post-war economic problems

Material for detailed study

- First World War (1914-8)
- Second World War (1939-45)
- Africa: Algerian War (1954-62), Nigerian Civil War (1967-70)
- Americas: Falklands/Malvinas war (1982), Nicaraguan Revolution (1976-9)
- Europe and Middle East: Spanish Civil War (1936-9), Iran–Iraq war (1980-88), Gulf War (1991)

Topic 5: The Cold War
This topic addresses East–West relations from 1945. It aims to promote an international perspective and understanding of the origins, course and effects of the Cold War—a conflict that dominated global affairs from the end of the Second World War to the early 1990s. It includes superpower rivalry and events in all areas affected by Cold War politics such as spheres of interest, wars (proxy), alliances and interference in developing countries.

**Major themes**
- Origins of the Cold War
- Ideological differences
- Mutual suspicion and fear
- From wartime allies to post-war enemies

**Nature of the Cold War**
- Ideological opposition
- Superpowers and spheres of influence
- Alliances and diplomacy in the Cold War

**Development and impact of the Cold War**
- Global spread of the Cold War from its European origins
- Cold War policies of containment, brinkmanship, peaceful coexistence, détente
- Role of the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement
- Role and significance of leaders
- Arms race, proliferation and limitation
- Social, cultural and economic impact

**End of the Cold War**
- Break-up of Soviet Union: internal problems and external pressures
- Breakdown of Soviet control over Central and Eastern Europe

**Material for detailed study**
- Wartime conferences: Yalta and Potsdam
- US policies and developments in Europe: Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO
- Soviet policies, Sovietization of Eastern and Central Europe, COMECON, Warsaw Pact
- Sino–Soviet relations
- US–Chinese relations
- Germany (especially Berlin (1945.61)), Congo (1960.64), Afghanistan (1979.88), Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Middle East
- Castro, Gorbachev, Kennedy, Mao, Reagan, Stalin, Truman

**History of the Americas** (Paper 03, HL students)

5. **Emergence of the Americas in global affairs 1880.1929** [Topics of emphasis are italicized]

This section focuses on modernization in the region, and its impact on foreign policy. It explores the involvement of the nations in the First World War. Modernization shaped the new nations
and its effects created the basis for a major shift in the foreign policies of the region. By the end of the century, for example, the United States played a more active role in world affairs, and in the affairs of Latin America in particular, thus transforming inter-American relations. When the First World War broke out in Europe, several American countries were involved in the conflict. When the war ended, its impact was felt in the economic, social and foreign policies of the participating countries.

- **United States' expansionist foreign policies: political, economic, social and ideological reasons**
- **Spanish–American War: causes and effects (1898)**
- **United States' foreign policies: the Big Stick; Dollar Diplomacy; Moral Diplomacy; applications and impact on the region**
- **United States and the First World War: from neutrality to involvement; reasons for US entry into the First World War; Wilson’s peace ideals and the struggle for ratification of the Versailles Treaty in the United States; significance of the war for the United States’ hemispheric status**
- **Involvement and participation of either Canada or one Latin American country in the First World War: reasons for and/or against participation; nature of participation**
- **Impact of the First World War on two countries of the Americas: economic, political, social, and foreign policies**

6. **The Mexican Revolution 1910–40**  
*Topics of emphasis are italicized*

This section focuses on the causes, course and impact of the Mexican Revolution that occurred in a country that had experienced a lengthy period of political stability and economic growth. The socio-economic composition of revolutionary leadership was varied, as were the aims. The revolution was prolonged and costly. The Constitution of 1917 has been described as the most progressive constitution created at this time in the region. It had significant influence on the political developments of the country and the area. The revolution impacted greatly on the arts, arguably representing the earliest and most enduring attempt to overcome racial divisions and incorporate the Indian heritage into the national identity.

- **Causes of the Mexican Revolution: social, economic and political; the role of the Porfiriato regime**
- **The revolution and its leaders (1910.17): ideologies, aims and methods of Madero, Villa, Zapata, Carranza; achievements and failures; Constitution of 1917: nature and application**
- **Construction of the post-revolutionary state (1920.38): Obregón, Calles and the Maximato; challenges; assessment of their impact in the post-revolutionary state**
- **Lázaro Cárdenas and the renewal of the revolution (1939.40): aims, methods and achievements**
- **The role of foreign powers (especially the United States) in the outbreak and development of the Mexican Revolution; motivations, methods of intervention and contributions**
7. The Great Depression and the Americas 1929-39  [Topics of emphasis are italicized]

This section focuses on the nature of the Depression as well as the different solutions adopted by governments in the region and the impact on these societies. The Great Depression produced the most serious economic collapse in the history of the Americas. It affected every country in the region and brought about the need to rethink economic and political systems. The alternatives that were offered and the adaptations that took place marked a watershed in political and economic development in many countries in the region.

With respect to the last two bullets, a case study approach should be adopted, using one country from the region as an example. The chosen country should be identified in the introduction to the examination answers.

- **The Great Depression: political and economic causes in the Americas**
- Nature and efficacy of solutions in the United States: Hoover; Franklin D Roosevelt and the New Deal; critics of the New Deal
- **Canada: Mackenzie King and RB Bennett**
- **Latin America’s responses to the Depression: either G Vargas or the Concordancia in Argentina; Import Substitution Industrialization (ISI) or any relevant case study of a Latin American country**
- Impact of the Great Depression on society: African Americans, women, minorities
- The Great Depression and the arts: photography, the movie industry, the radio, literary currents

8. The Second World War and the Americas 1933-45  [Topics of emphasis are italicized]

As the world order deteriorated in the late 1930s, resulting in the outbreak of war in Europe, the countries of the region reacted in different ways to the challenges presented. This section focuses on the changing policies of the countries in the region as a result of growing political and diplomatic tensions preceding and during the Second World War. It also examines the impact of the war upon the Americas.

- **Hemispheric reactions to the events in Europe: inter-American diplomacy; cooperation and neutrality; Franklin D Roosevelt’s Good Neighbour policy, its application and effects**
- The diplomatic and/or military role of two countries in the Second World War
- **Social impact of the Second World War on: African Americans, Native Americans, women and minorities; conscription**
- **Treatment of Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians**
- **Reaction to the Holocaust in the Americas**
9. Political developments in the Americas after the Second World War 1945-79  [Topics of emphasis are italicized]

This section focuses on domestic concerns and political developments after 1945. The majority of states in the Americas experienced social, economic and political changes and challenges. Political responses to these forces varied from country to country: from the continuation of democracy to multi-class “populist” alliances to outright conflict, revolution and the establishment of authoritarian regimes in the 1960s and 1970s. Areas of study include: conditions for the rise to power of new leaders; economic and social policies; treatment of minorities. Note: Vargas and Cárdenas came to power before 1945 but their rule and influence in their respective states continued after 1945.

- United States: domestic policies of Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy
- Johnson and “the Great Society”; Nixon’s domestic reforms
- Canada: domestic policies from Diefenbaker to Chrétien
- Causes and effects of the Silent (or Quiet) Revolution
- Populist leaders in Latin America: rise to power; characteristics of populist regimes; social, economic and political policies; the treatment of opposition; successes and failures (suitable examples could be Perón, Vargas or any relevant Latin American leader)
- The Cuban Revolution: political, social, economic causes; impact on the region
- Rule of Fidel Castro: political, economic, social and cultural policies; treatment of minorities; successes and failures
- Military regimes in Latin America: rationale for intervention; challenges; policies; successes and failures

10. The Cold War and the Americas 1945-1981  [Topics of emphasis are italicized]

This section focuses on the development and impact of the Cold War on the region. Most of the second half of the 20th century was dominated by the global conflict of the Cold War. Within the Americas, some countries were closely allied to the United States and some took sides reluctantly. Many remained neutral or sought to avoid involvement in Cold War struggles. A few, influenced by the Cuban Revolution, instituted socialist governments. No nation, however, escaped the pressures of the Cold War, which had a significant impact on the domestic and foreign policies of the countries of the region.

- Truman: containment and its implications for the Americas; the rise of McCarthyism and its effects on domestic and foreign policies of the United States; the Cold War and its impact on society and culture
- Korean War and the United States and the Americas: reasons for participation; military
developments; diplomatic and political outcomes

- Eisenhower and Dulles: New Look and its application; characteristics and reasons for the policy; repercussions for the region
- United States’ involvement in Vietnam: the reasons for, and nature of, the involvement at different stages; domestic effects and the end of the war
- United States’ foreign policies from Kennedy to Carter: the characteristics of, and reasons for, policies; implications for the region: Kennedy’s Alliance for Progress; Nixon’s covert operations and Chile; Carter’s quest for human rights and the Panama Canal Treaty
- Cold War in either Canada or one Latin American country: reasons for foreign and domestic policies and their implementation