

Modern History (2U)

Category A – NESAC Developed Course

Counts towards ATAR



Course Description

- The **Year 11** course provides students with opportunities to develop and apply their understanding of methods and issues involved in the investigation of modern history. Students have the opportunity to engage in the study of a range of people, ideas, movements, events and developments that have shaped the modern world.
- The **Year 12** course provides students with opportunities to apply their understanding of sources and relevant issues in the investigation of the modern world. Through a core study, students investigate the nature of power and authority from 1919 to 1946. They also study key features in the history of one nation, one study in peace and conflict, and one study of change in the modern world.



What students learn – Year 11 course

The Year 11 course comprises three sections:

- **Investigating Modern History**

- Students undertake at least ONE option from ‘The Nature of Modern History’, and at least TWO case studies.

- **Historical Investigation**

- **The Shaping of the Modern World**

- At least ONE study from ‘The Shaping of the Modern World’ is to be undertaken.



Year 11 Course – Topic Examples

| Investigating Modern History | Historical Investigation | The Shaping of the Modern World |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Decline and Fall of the Romanov Dynasty • The American Civil War • The Meiji Restoration • The Cuban Revolution • The Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict • The Boxer Rebellion in China | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Historical Investigation is a unit of work where the student has the option to chose any topic of interest to them in relation to modern history so long as it does not overlap with the Year 12 course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Enlightenment • The French Revolution • The Age of Imperialism • The Industrial Age • World War I • The End of Empire |

Please note, this is not the full list of potential topics, just an example of some that may be chosen. The full list is available on the NESAs website.



Year 11 Modern History School-based Assessment Requirements

The components and weightings for Year 11 are mandatory.

| Component | Weighting % |
|---|-------------|
| Knowledge and understanding of course content | 40 |
| Historical skills in the analysis and evaluation of sources and interpretations | 20 |
| Historical inquiry and research | 20 |
| Communication of historical understanding in appropriate forms | 20 |
| | 100 |

The Year 11 formal school-based assessment program is to reflect the following requirements:

- three assessment tasks
- the minimum weighting for an individual task is 20%
- the maximum weighting for an individual task is 40%
- only one task may be a formal written examination
- one task must be an Historical Investigation with a weighting of 20–30%.



What students learn – Year 12 course

The Year 12 course comprises four sections:

- **Core Study: Power and Authority in the Modern World 1919–1946**
- **One ‘National Studies’ topic**
- **One ‘Peace and Conflict’ topic**
- **One ‘Change in the Modern World’ topic**



Year 12 Course – Topic Examples

| Core Study | National Studies | Peace and Conflict | Change in the Modern World |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power and Authority in the Modern World 1919-1946 – Includes ‘The rise of dictatorships after WWI’, ‘The Nazi Regime’, ‘The search for peace and security in the World’ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China 1927-1949 India 1942-1984 Australia 1918-1949 Russia and the Soviet Union 1917-1941 USA 1919-1941 Japan 1904-1937 Iran 1945-1989 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict in Indochina 1954-1979 Conflict in the Pacific 1937-1951 Conflict in Europe 1935-1945 The Cold War 1945-1991 Conflict in the Gulf 1980-2011 The Arab-Israeli Conflict | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apartheid in South Africa The Nuclear Age 1945-2011 The Changing World Order Civil Rights in the USA 1945-1968 The Cultural Revolution to Tiananmen Square |

The Core Study is compulsory. One topic for the other three will be chosen. One topic must be a non-European option. For a complete list of potential topics please refer to the Modern History syllabus on the NESA website.



Year 12 course assessment requirements

| Component | Weighting % |
|---|-------------|
| Knowledge and understanding of course content | 40 |
| Historical skills in the analysis and evaluation of sources and interpretations | 20 |
| Historical inquiry and research | 20 |
| Communication of historical understanding in appropriate forms | 20 |
| | 100 |

The Year 12 formal school-based assessment program is to reflect the following requirements:

- a maximum of four assessment tasks
- the minimum weighting for an individual task is 10%
- the maximum weighting for an individual task is 40%
- only one task may be a formal written examination with a maximum weighting of 30%
- one task must be an Historical Analysis with a weighting of 20–30%.



HSC Examination

The HSC Examination for Modern History is 3hrs writing time + 5 minutes reading.

The examination consists of four sections:

- **Section 1 – Core: Power and Authority in the Modern World (25 Marks)**
 - 3-4 Questions,, source analysis, one question will be 10-15 marks
- **Section II – National Studies**
 - One extended response question worth 25 marks
- **Section III – Peace and Conflict**
 - One extended response question worth 25 marks
- **Section IV – Change in the Modern World**
 - There will be one question with 3-4 parts. One part will be worth 10-15 marks



Life Skills

- Students are not required to address or achieve all of the Modern History Life Skills outcomes.
- Students are not required to complete all of the content to demonstrate achievement of an outcome.
- Outcomes and content should be selected to meet the particular needs of individual students.
- The case studies, topics and content focus provide possible frameworks for addressing the Modern History Life Skills outcomes and content are suggestions only. Teachers have the flexibility to develop case studies and topics that will meet the needs, strengths, goals, interests and prior learning of their students.
- Examples provided under the content points are suggestions only. Teachers may use the examples provided or develop other examples to meet the particular needs of individual students.
- Students may explore one case study/topic, part of a case study/topic or elements of the content as appropriate.



Learning Across the Curriculum

Knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours learnt in Modern History will assist students to live and work successfully in the 21st Century.

They include:

- *Critical and creative thinking*
- *Ethical understanding*
- *Information and communication technology capability*
- *Intercultural Understanding*
- *Literacy*
- *Numeracy*
- *Personal and social capability*



Are you suited to the study of Modern History?

- The *most* important attribute to consider is whether you are interested in the topics studied. The more interest you have in a topic the more likely you are to succeed.
- Do you like critical thinking? Do you like to understand how and why events happen and what impacts they have on the world we live in?
- Are you prepared to conduct research, read texts and watch documentaries to learn about historical events?
- Are you happy to develop your extended response writing skills? (No need to be an expert, this is a skill we work on throughout Year 11 and Year 12)

If this sounds like you, Modern History might be your thing! If you have any further questions, feel free to speak to one of the HSIE staff members.



Testimonies

“I liked that although there was certain topics that we study as a whole class, we were also given opportunities to look further into topics of our interest with some assignments”

“I mean the topics we studied were just so fascinating. I gained such an in-depth understanding of societies and periods I’d heard about but never really considered.”

“Interesting and very varied topics”

“The independent study assignments are a great way of determining what interests you as an individual and what you hope to gain from studying history.”



Any questions?

See the following teachers should you wish to know more about Modern History:

- Mrs Lang
- Mr Kable
- Miss Eslick

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