



Curriculum for History
Grades 5-12
Short version

Reference curriculum: Thuringia, Germany
Year created: 2018

The school curriculum for *History* at the German International School Washington D.C. is based on the curriculum of the German Bundesland of Thuringia and is adapted for use at the GISW. The subject is not structured according to the tracks of secondary education (Hauptschule, Realschule and Gymnasium) as it is the case in Germany. Instead, up to grade 10, teaching methods are based on internal differentiation, which means that the individual learning style and class performance of each student are taken into consideration.

During the qualification phase of grades 11 and 12, the curriculum for *History* is based on the core curriculum of the *Kultusministerkonferenz* (“conference of ministers of education”) for the secondary schools of the German Schools Abroad (2010), the regionally aligned curriculum of the German Schools Abroad in North America (2011) as well as the subject-specific guidelines for the Deutsche Internationale Abitur at the German Schools Abroad (2015).

As part of the qualification for the Deutsche Internationale Abitur (DIA) *History* is taught in modules from grade 5 to grade 12, some in German, some in English. One requirement for the High School diploma is a course in *US History* in grades 11 and 12, which is taught in English. This subject is based on the curriculum of the Montgomery County Public Schools and the standards of the Maryland State Department of Education.

Instruction of *History* at the GISW is skill-oriented and promotes social and self-competence as well as knowledge of the subject matter and learning methods. Performance is assessed in three key areas (reproducing knowledge/applying knowledge/providing assessment). There is one written exam per semester in grades 5 to 9, which makes up 30 % of the report mark. In grades 10 it makes up 40 % of the report mark and in grades 11 – 12 it makes up 50 %. Class performance and other testing make up 70 %, 60 % and 50 %, respectively.

Grade	Topics
Grade 5 2 hours per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First encounter with the subject of History - Conditions and ways of life: Continuity and change are demonstrated by using examples from early history and early advanced civilizations. - Ancient Greece - The rise and fall of the Roman Empire
Grade 6 1 hour per week (in alternation 1 semester with 2 hours per week)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World Views: The Byzantine Empire and the emergence and expansion of the Islamic culture - Europe in the Middle Ages: Life in medieval times Ruling power in the Middle Ages Encounters of the cultures through the example of the crusades
Grade 7 2 hours per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World Views: Dawn of a new time - Forms of Government: Absolutism - The Road to Democracy: England and North America - The road to the Modern Age: The French Revolution
Grade 8 2 hours per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Road to a Nation-State: Germany in the 19th Century Restoration and the national-liberal movement Revolution 1848/49 - The Industrial Revolution - The German Empire

<p>Grade 9 2 hours per week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Periodization of 20th Century History - The state of the world at the end of the First World War - The Weimar Republic - National Socialism in Germany 1933-1945 - The development of the two German states in the context of the bipolar world until 1989/90
<p>Grade 10 3 hours per week</p>	<p>Germany and Europe in modern times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Epochs of world history - Early modern history - Absolutism and Enlightenment - French Revolution and Napoleon - Congress of Vienna: Restauration and re-organization of Europe - National liberal movement - Revolution 1848/49 - Industrialization and its consequences
<p>Grade 11 3 hours per week</p>	<p>11/1: Germany and Europe since the foundation of the German Empire in 1871</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The German Empire - Imperialism and Colonialism - First World War <p>11/2: Germany and Europe after the First World War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weimar Republic - National Socialism, Fascism, Totalitarianism - Second World War

Grade 12 3 hours per week	12/1: Germany and Europe in the world <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Post-war years- Cold War- German-German History until 1966 12/2: Aspects of World History <ul style="list-style-type: none">- German History through the present time- Process of European unification- The world in the 20th and 21st century
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Overview of the School Curriculum for History, updated and adopted at the GISW History Department Meeting on October 25, 2018.