**AP European History**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

AP European History is a college level course which explores the history of Europe from 1450 to the present and students will be required to learn relevant factual knowledge, as well as major themes of European History during this time period. Besides studying the content of European history, the course is designed to help students develop their analytical thinking and writing skills. These skills are highly sought after, and necessary for success at the college level.

Due to the requirements of this class, students will devote considerable time to the critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources, analysis of historiography, and inquiry into global connections that have shaped the modern world. A special emphasis will be given to preparation for the National AP Exam, including historical writing through essay and document based questions (DBQ) as well as objective examinations. In depth study of both written primary sources as well as the ability to interpret political cartoons, maps, and important works of art will be a critical component to this class. Students will also be expected to read and interpret modern historian’s views on the past and how those views have changed as new scholarship appears.

**ESSENTIAL SKILLS**

Critical Thinking, Listening, Oral Communication, Problem Solving, Reading, Research, Technology, Writing

**AP European History Themes:**

The course will focus cultural and intellectual history, political and diplomatic history as well as social and economic movements and trends. We will encounter these themes through a variety of sources including secondary scholarship and primary sources and discuss them and how they relate and are tied to the topics listed below. In March we will visit the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to explore the art of the Impressionist movement. These topics will recur in different contexts throughout the course.

**Mr. Joshua Thomas**

Mr. Thomas enoys teaching history and his favorite thing about teaching is seeing how the students choose to interact and conceptualize content in different ways. But above all, he loves to develop relationships with his students, which is his favorite part. He is passionate about learning, specifically about different cultures, histories, and people- which makes traveling one of his favorite things to do.

He is proud of being the first person in his family to graduate from college. He was inspired by great teachers here at James River High School, and his goal was to one day try to emulate them by becoming a teacher and coach. One thing that few people know about him is that he has a secret dream to one day teach and live in Tallinn, Astonia or somewhere else unique in Europe. If he wasn’t a teacher, he would love to be a travel writer.