Laarman Lesson Plan

Subject: World History Unit: World Wars and Genocides

Unit Objectives

1. Analyze the mindsets that lead to violence, war, and genocide.
2. Understand the particular historical context for the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust.
3. Wrestle with the choices that individuals, groups, and nations made in response to the Armenian Genocide, the Nazi conquest of Europe, and the Holocaust, as well as the aspects of human behavior that contributed to those choices. Use this analysis to further develop your own philosophy of life.
4. Make connections between universal themes related to democracy, citizenship, scapegoating, “othering,” and human connection and responsibility that this history raises and the world they live in today.

Date: 4/7/25 Topic: Dismantling Democracy

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| Materials | Handouts from Facing History site |
| Lesson Goal | Working with others, students will create a graphic organizer that summarizes our learning from last week. |
| Learning Plan | 1. Have students get out a piece of paper and put 5 “steps” on the bottom half (model on the board). At the bottom of the steps, write “dictatorship” 2. Have students work with groups to try to fill in the steps. Write lightly with pencil 3. As a class, discuss the steps: Declare a state of emergency, remove opposition, ban other parties, purge disloyal members of your own party, make your rule absolute and indefinite. 4. Above the steps on the graphic organizer, make a section that says “increasing support for Nazis” and have student groups list the Nazi party ideology 5. Above that section, have student groups come up with things that were happening in the Weimar Republic that led to increasing support for the Nazis and enhanced their appeal. |

Date: 4/8/25 Topic: The Invasion of Nanking

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| Materials | Handouts from Digital Inquiry Group |
| Learning Plan | 1. Do the lesson found at <https://inquirygroup.org/history-lessons/invasion-nanking?check_logged_in=1> 2. Have students summarize the Japanese aggression on their ICLS forms |

Date: 4/9/25 Topic: The U.S. and the U.S.S.R. in the 1920’s and ‘30’s

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| Learning Plan | 1. Students write notes on their Interwar Years ICLS forms while watching videos on the Holodomor and Great Purge in the USSR    1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lejDbulJN54&t=205s>    2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUlwALrh0Ak> (15:00 – 18:04) 2. Lecture: the U.S.’s rising isolationism 3. Students complete the summary and reflection on their ICLS forms. |

Date: 4/10/25 - 4/11/25 Topic: Appeasement

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| Materials | Handouts from Digital Inquiry Group, Self-Assessment |
| Learning Plan | 1. Hand out student self-assessment    1. Start with a reflection on how involved the students think the U.S. should be in world affairs and another reflection on that opinion might influence their thoughts on this topic 2. Mini-lecture: Germany builds its military, re-occupies Rhineland without intervention 3. Do the lesson found at <https://inquirygroup.org/history-lessons/appeasement?check_logged_in=1> 4. Complete the self-assessment: how successful were students in their attempts to take an objective look at the issue of whether the world should have intervened? |