



JOSEPH KUSHNER HEBREW ACADEMY

RAE KUSHNER YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL

A LOOK AT HISTORY AT RKYHS

The History Department incorporates a World History course in 9th grade and for 10th and 11th grade we teach American History (including AP in 11th grade), we also offer AP US Government. All 12th graders take Modern Jewish History as well. World History begins by covering each early civilizations through Greece, and the Roman Republic/Empire, Christianity, the rise of Byzantium, the development of Islam, feudalism, and finishes with the Renaissance in the 15th Century. By the end of this first semester, we will be on the French Revolution and Napoleonic Europe.

American History I starts in the 10th grade with early exploration and colonization and proceeds with the Revolution, the Constitution and the Federalist Era, and Jeffersonian America War of 1812 and Jacksonian Democracy. The junior year (11th grade) American History II course covers issues that range from the rise of post-Civil War industrialization, unionization and immigration and will then lead into the rise of the imperialism and the birth of the progressive movement. Other topics include the Great War, the 1920's, the Great Depression and the New Deal, concluding the first semester with WWII.

In 12th grade Jewish History, students examine the political, economic, social and religious developments that have affected Jews and Jewish life over the past 400 years. Topics include the false Messianism, Hasidism, and the Yeshiva Movement in Eastern Europe as well as Moses Mendelssohn, Emancipation, and the Reform and counter Reform movements in Western Europe. Students will also study an intensive unit on the Holocaust in the 2nd semester. A major emphasis is placed on the rise of Zionism, the birth of the State of Israel, and its ability to overcome its adversaries over the years. Students will learn how to defend the State of Israel against the constant claims of its illegitimate right to exist. Right now students are focusing on the plurality of Jewish life of 17th century in view of previous century catastrophes (Chmielnicki pogroms and Shabtai Zevi) - therefore the rise of Hassidic movement and its opposition by Vilna Gaon and Jewish Enlightenment.

Read below for thoughts from AP Government student Shayna Mandelbaum on voting in her first election...

The midterm election brings a new House of Representatives and a good portion of the Senate to 2019. This will be the incoming 116th Congress. Midterm elections are a way Americans support or reject the newly elected president's first term. Justin Bryant, History Department Chair asked Shayna Mandelbaum her thoughts on just turning 18 and her opportunity to vote for the first time. She commented "Ever since I was little, I always wanted to vote. I was eager to register to vote the moment I could. We are lucky enough to live in a democratic country that allows us to vote so why would anyone not exercise their basic right/freedom? Especially now that I am taking AP Government, I realize the significance of being able to live in the country with the longest running democracy. I think that the voter apathy that young voters have is such a problem and young people need to be empowered to participate in democracy. Every vote matters!"