

READ THIS ENTIRE LETTER

Welcome to World History!

I am excited about this year, and your chance to be the very first group of students enrolled in Insight California! I actually live in Northern California, but thanks to the magic of the internet I am just a click away.

My name is Mr. Gough (pronounced Goff). I have been teaching Social Studies for about 15 years. I love history, archaeology, and I like to surf. I also have a passion for learning and I have gone to several universities. I would love to talk about college with you any time!

Some of you are continuing from first semester, some of you are joining us for the second semester... if you are new, welcome to Insight! I would encourage you to find the school forums and get to know some people that have been around this year, they can help you figure out the Insight system

If you have never taken a class online before, here's what you need to know... it's REAL school. Just like a traditional school, you have to show up and do the work to pass. Yes, the schedule is flexible... but not too flexible. You can ask anyone around here and they'll tell you it's sometimes harder than regular school...and you don't want to get behind.

I would expect that you will have something to work on every day and you should check in with me regularly. If I don't see or hear from you at least every three days, expect me to call or email to check in. I want to make sure you are learning about History, but also learning how to do this online thing well.

One of the hardest things to do when starting online school is figuring out "your own way" of making it work. You will have to figure out your own schedule, create your own work space, and dedicate yourself to your school work. I will be helping you stay on track, and your iMentor is here to help you figure out your own style. It may be frustrating at first, but you'll get it... don't give up. We'll do this together.

I expect that your work will be turned in **on assigned due dates** and it will be complete. Incomplete work will be returned for you to complete. Your education is so important that I will not accept anything less than your very best work. I reserve the right to ask you to redo any assignment if I feel you haven't tried your best.

If you are returning from first semester, you should know **I am going to be much less flexible on your due dates**...if you are going to miss a deadline, email me and I may accept it late, but probably not.

So let's get started...

THIS WEEK:

1. **Send me a message through the Message Center in Apex.** If you don't know how to do this yet, please log into Apex and click on the link to our World History class. When the course window opens up, scroll to the bottom of the lesson list on the left side of the course window and click on "Appendix A" – then look for "How to submit your work in Apex." Follow those directions.
 - a. In the body of the message write a brief introduction of yourself.
 - b. In the same message, include the name of one guardian and the best time and phone number to call them (and please include area code).
 - c. In the same message, include the best number to call you on, and a good time to call.
 - d. Finally, because we ALL have technical issues... I want you to create a back-up plan. I want to know **specifically** where are 3 places you can access a computer AND internet if your own computer fails. This can be a friend, library, relative, etc. Create this as a text document and attach it to the same email.

All four things are to be done on the SAME message. **Send it to me by midnight Wednesday, January 23, 2008** and you will have completed your first assignment. **This is worth points.**

This week we will also jump right in to "The Age of Exploration." You need to complete Quiz 7.1.4 by midnight Monday. See the calendar link for more assignment due dates.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you this week and a GREAT first year with Insight CA!

Gough

Mr. Gough