**UNIT PLAN**

The purpose of the UNIT PLAN is to give you an overview of the whole piece of work. It is designed to break down topics through the posing of powerful essential questions that help you figure out how to get closer to a piece of reality, to the *gestalt* of the subject, so that you may have an overall view of what is the object that you are tackling. This sort of roadmap is coupled with a checklist of basic parameters that you need to keep into account, to help you decide how to spend the time and which tools and methods you are going to use in order to get closer to the topic. For instance, to get closer to the understanding of which events were most influential in the Byzantine Empire’s development, what is going to help us most, learning to read a timeline or learning to read a primary source?

The unit plan, through the essential questions, helps you to identify the perspective through which analyze a piece of reality, the entry point through which you are going to explore that particular topic, helping you to understand what we are doing is a piece of a broader reality.

# Unit Map Cover Page

**Guiding Questions**

* **What is the object? What is the aspect of reality I’m trying to get closer to?**
  + The Byzantine Empire—specifically it’s relationship with its subjects & foreign neighbors.
* **How does it reflect the *gestalt* of the subject? How does this piece connect to the whole?**
  + Since we’ll be studying major Empires & civilizations all year in this history course, I want students to see how patterns of interaction during trade & territorial expansion make all major Empires pre-modern incubators for globalization, which we’ll get to by Spring.
* **What kinds of questions do historians in this subject ask themselves?**
* What are the consequences of interactions for Empires?
* How does interaction change how people live and see the world?
* What is the function of religion in shaping a culture, including economics, government, expansion and relations with other cultures?
* **Who is my audience?** 
  + High school sophomores

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**: What is the function of religion in shaping a culture, including economics, government, expansion and relations with other cultures?

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|  | NAME | PROJECTED # OF DAYS | ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS ADDRESSED | TOOLS\* | METHODS | WAYS TO ASSESS\*\* |
| TOPIC 1 | Political Development of Byzantine Empire | 3 | * How did the Byzantine Empire develop politically? | * Opening Questions * Lecture * Documents/Sources | * Summarize main phases * Timeline | * Oral Q+A * Short answer * Torturous Questioning * Homework checks |
| TOPIC 2 | Cultural Development | 2 |  | * Videos |  |  |

\* What tools will help us reveal the aspect of reality we are looking at?

\*\* What is the main assessment (quiz, project, creative synthesis, reteach, …)? Is there a main assessment? What is the summative assessment (= assessment that depend on the WHOLE unit)