



OER FAQ

What is the OER Project?

OER Project empowers teachers to better serve their students through innovative curricula and a variety of teaching tools. Everything is free, and your OER Project account is the key to accessing all of it. We offer the following social studies courses, suitable for a range of age levels and adaptable to a variety of state standards:

- Full courses:
 - **Big History Project (BHP)**
 - **World History Project (WHP)**
 - **World History Project AP® (WHP AP®)**
- Extension courses (to enhance your existing curriculum):
 - **Project X**
 - **Project Score**

Regardless of which course you choose, you will have access to the following free supports:

- **Score**, an automated essay-scoring platform that provides clear, consistent feedback to students. Score acts like your own teaching assistant, giving you more time to work one-on-one with those students who need more help.
- **Embedded learning supports** in all lesson materials— such as leveled articles, audio recordings, and downloadable video transcripts—to meet a variety of student needs.
- **Google Classroom** and other LMS integration.



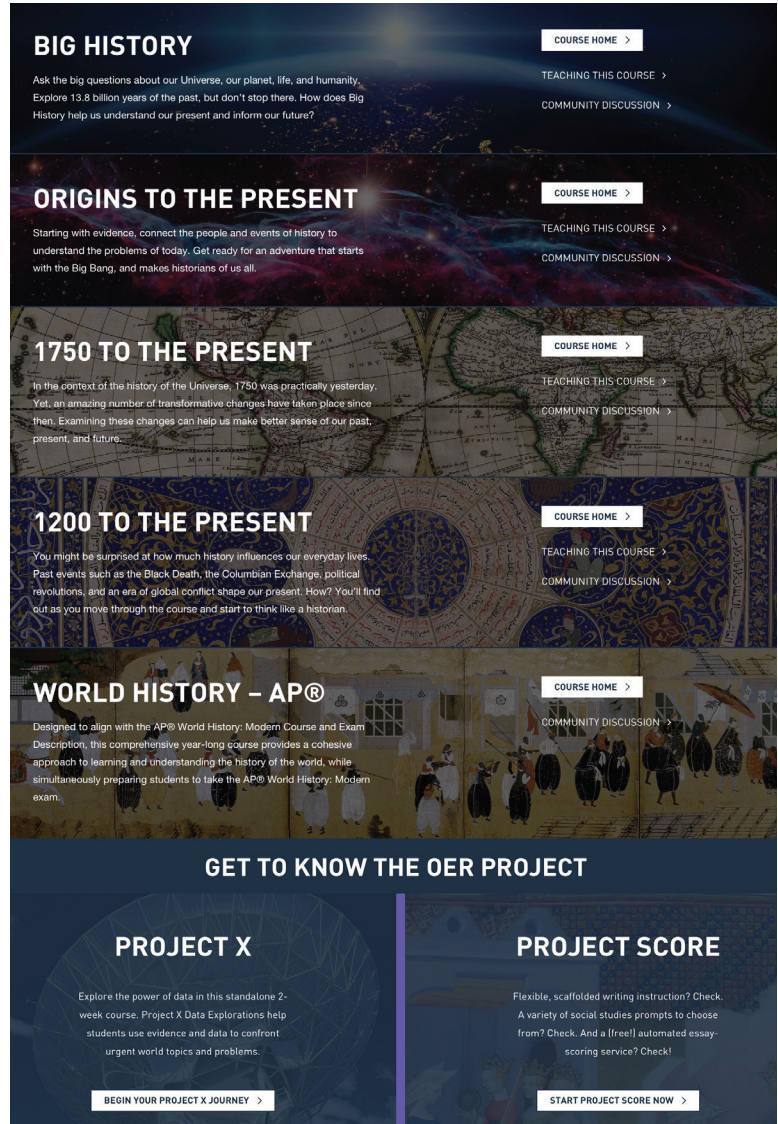
- **The OER Project Teacher Community**, a vibrant online space where teachers and scholars can share ideas on the latest teaching trends, ask questions, and gain access to a variety of professional-development opportunities.

What does “OER” stand for?

“OER” stands for open educational resources. When you grab a free worksheet off of Pinterest for your tenth graders, that’s an example of an OER resource. While there are great OER resources out there, they are generally in the form of one-off lesson plans, or content repositories that lack any kind of clear framework. OER Project courses provide more than just quality content—they also integrate the instructional and professional support necessary for quality teaching.

Which course is right for me?

- Full courses:
 - **Big History Project (BHP)** provides foundational skills and concepts for middle- and high-school students that position them well for future studies in history and the social sciences. ([View the BHP FAQ](#))
 - **World History Project (WHP)** develops essential skills and concepts that prepare high-school students for college and AP courses. ([View the WHP FAQ](#))
 - **World History Project AP** is a free, online College-Board-approved world-history course. Precisely aligned to the AP World History: Modern Course and Exam Description (CED), WHP AP can serve as a textbook for AP World History: Modern classrooms. ([View the WHP AP FAQ](#))
- Extension courses:
 - **Project X** teaches key data-literacy and critical-thinking skills in a compact four-week module. It’s most suitable for high-school students. ([View the Project X FAQ](#))
 - **Project Score** fosters writing proficiency in middle- and high-school students. It can be used as part of your existing curriculum, and includes automated essay-scoring assistance. ([View the Project Score FAQ](#))



The screenshot displays the OER Project website interface. It features a vertical list of course cards, each with a title, a brief description, and navigation links for 'COURSE HOME', 'TEACHING THIS COURSE', and 'COMMUNITY DISCUSSION'. The courses listed are:

- BIG HISTORY**: Ask the big questions about our Universe, our planet, life, and humanity. Explore 13.8 billion years of the past, but don't stop there. How does Big History help us understand our present and inform our future?
- ORIGINS TO THE PRESENT**: Starting with evidence, connect the people and events of history to understand the problems of today. Get ready for an adventure that starts with the Big Bang, and makes historians of us all.
- 1750 TO THE PRESENT**: In the context of the history of the Universe, 1750 was practically yesterday. Yet, an amazing number of transformative changes have taken place since then. Examining these changes can help us make better sense of our past, present, and future.
- 1200 TO THE PRESENT**: You might be surprised at how much history influences our everyday lives. Past events such as the Black Death, the Columbian Exchange, political revolutions, and an era of global conflict shape our present. How? You'll find out as you move through the course and start to think like a historian.
- WORLD HISTORY – AP®**: Designed to align with the AP® World History: Modern Course and Exam Description, this comprehensive year-long course provides a cohesive approach to learning and understanding the history of the world, while simultaneously preparing students to take the AP® World History: Modern exam.

At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled "GET TO KNOW THE OER PROJECT" with two sub-sections:

- PROJECT X**: Explore the power of data in this standalone 2-week course. Project X Data Explorations help students use evidence and data to confront urgent world topics and problems.
- PROJECT SCORE**: Flexible, scaffolded writing instruction? Check. A variety of social studies prompts to choose from? Check. And a (free!) automated essay-scoring service? Check!

We encourage you to explore our website to learn more about our courses to decide which one is best suited for your use. If you have any specific questions, please email us at help@oerproject.com.

What similarities do these courses share with one another?

All our courses share a common DNA and a common approach; awesome content; and a vibrant teacher community. In addition, all OER Project courses are completely free, online, and adaptable to different standards and classroom needs.

What are the differences between BHP, WHP, and WHP AP?

BHP teaches history at the largest possible scale, starting with the Big Bang and ending with the future. WHP and WHP AP are more specifically the story of humanity. Although each periodization of WHP (Origins, 1200, 1750) and WHP AP has a unique starting point, all of them guide students through the Industrial Revolution and onward into the twenty-first century. To learn more about the differences between the WHP courses, check out the [WHP FAQ](#). To learn more about WHP AP, which is aligned to the AP World History: Modern exam, check out the [WHP AP FAQ](#).

Can I use materials from different courses at the same time?

Each of our courses is distinct and comes with its own skills progressions. Although you may occasionally find supplemental materials you would like to incorporate into other OER Project courses, we recommend for the most part that you use the materials for the course you are teaching.

Could districts/teachers teach different OER Project courses consecutively?

A very popular pedagogical approach we've seen with our partnering districts is to use Big History Project in middle-school social studies classes, with World History Project following in early high school, and WHP AP for AP World History: Modern students. WHP and WHP AP extend the skills development of BHP and provide strong skills development for high-school history students.

How do OER Project courses fit with my state's standards?

All our courses are designed to align with many existing standards. Check out our [Planning Resources](#) hub to see how our courses fit with your state's standards. If you don't see your state listed, choose a state that you know shares similar standards with your own. We're always adding new states, so check back soon.

How is OER Project content delivered?

All OER Project course content is available online. A web-based model ensures that content is up to date, relieves the need for costly textbooks, and helps teachers engage students by providing media-rich materials that can be downloaded and viewed or printed anywhere. At the discretion of teachers and schools, OER Project courses can also be integrated with a variety of LMS platforms and Google Classroom ([see our guide](#)). You can also sign in to OER Project using Clever! Find out more here.

Who is involved in OER Project?

Our course designers have played and continue to play an integral role in the conception, design, and development of BHP and WHP:

Pilot schools: Our courses are codeveloped with pilot-school teachers and administrators. All aspects of the course—from the core curriculum and content to the assessment strategy—are authored with our pilot-school partners.

David Christian: Professor of history at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. David, who built a widely taught college-level course, is the “father” of Big History. David helped create the strategy for BHP and appears in several course videos.

Bob Bain: Associate professor of history and education at the University of Michigan. Bob played an integral role in the course design and delivery of both BHP and WHP, as well as in the outlining of the course assessment plans and alignment to standards.

Trevor Getz: Professor of African history at San Francisco University. Trevor worked closely with Bob Bain to design WHP, and continues to serve as the lead academic adviser for all elements of WHP.

Our OER Project Advisory Board represents a diverse array of academics and historians. [Click here](#) to learn more about our Advisory Board.