***Big History Project 2013-2014 Syllabus***

**Course Title**: The Big History Project

**Course Description**: This course is a 9th grade course in its second year at Clarenceville High School . We are a pilot school participating in a year-long study sponsored by the University of Michigan on the effectiveness of the Big History curriculum, so it can be perfected and made free and available online to any school in the coming years. In this course, we will be combining the study of history with astronomy, chemistry, geology, biology, and anthropology in order to explore the history of the universe from the big bang through to today. This exciting, new, computer-based course is designed to provide a foundation of knowledge that will help students in all of their future history and science courses. This course is an elective, two-trimester course. Completion of the “A” portion of the class will result in receiving an elective science credit and the “B” portion will count as an elective social studies credit.

**Teacher Introduction**:  David Lurie, Science/Math Department

-B. A. Cornell University

-M. S. University of Phoenix

 Anthony Salciccioli

* B.A. Michigan State University
* B.A. University of Michigan- Dearborn
* M.A. Marygrove College

**Unit Breakdowns:**

Unit 1: “What is Big History” Unit 6: “Early Humans”

Unit 2: “The Big Bang” Unit 7: “Agriculture and Civilization”

Unit 3: “Stars and Elements” Unit 8: “Expansion and Interconnection”

Unit 4: “Our Solar System and Earth” Unit 9: “Acceleration”

Unit 5: “Life” Unit 10: “The Future”

**Course Agenda and Direction**:    Content Standards to be covered – Common Core social studies 9-10 band.

There are two web sites that will allow parents and students to follow the course agenda and we encourage both to check often:

1. Big History Moodle page at [www.clarenceville.k12.mi.us](http://www.clarenceville.k12.mi.us)
2. Big History Project page at [www.bighistoryproject.com](http://www.bighistoryproject.com)

**Assessment Types**:    Assessment will be based on mastery of the Common Core science and social studies standards as demonstrated in the following ways:

* Daily in-class group and individual writing assignments.
* Four end-of-unit individual investigation projects.
* Six multiple-choice/short-answer traditional tests.
* The Little Big History culminating project.

**Grading Scale and Policy**: Students will be assessed on their mastery of the Common Core standards as outlined in the course rubric. Over the course of the year, each student will compile a portfolio of work from the above assessments, and use that work to demonstrate their learning using the following process:

1. Student completes an assessment and places it in their portfolio.
2. Student will self-assess their own work for how well it meets certain standards on the rubric.
3. Teacher will review the student’s assessment and offer feedback on the student’s progress.
4. Student will edit their work and repeat the above process until they have mastered the standards.

Individual assignments will not receive a letter grade. At the end of each quarter, each student will review their portfolio of work and assign themselves the letter grade they feel they deserve. They will then conference with the teacher and defend their self-assigned grade based. The teacher will have the final say as to what each student’s letter grade will be.

**Materials:** All students must come to class with a spiral bound class notebook and a writing utensil of their choosing. All other class materials are available online, and will be accessed in class via computer.

**Class Notebook:** There will be a great deal of important content covered over the course of this year. Students are not expected to memorize this content, but they are expected to be familiar with it. Because of this, students are expected to maintain a notebook where they not only take daily notes, but also keep track of the various assignments and projects we will work on throughout the year.

**Attendance Policy**:

MAKE-UP WORK: It is the responsibility of the student to manage his or her make-up work. Do not expect your teachers to automatically inform you and schedule your make-up work. You will be expected to use the course website and other tools to avoid falling behind. All content for this course is available online, and can be accessed from any computer with internet access.

**Teacher Availability**:

Mr. Lurie and Mr. Salciccioli would be happy to meet with students and/or parents before or after school, or during our prep hours. Please talk to us directly or email us at dlurie@clarenceville.k12.mi.us or asalciccioli@clarenceville.k12.mi.us to make arrangements.