

AP European History



Welcome to AP European History!

For your summer assignment, you must select a book pertaining to European History. This can be fiction or non-fiction. I have generated a list of some interesting titles that span the different periods of European history. You are more than welcome to select a book not on the list but all **selections must be approved by me before we break for summer**. No two students may select the same title to read. You should choose a book that you find to be interesting. Some of the books on my list or that you may come across are very lengthy. These books are marked (***) If you choose one of these you can select a portion to focus on which should total around 300 pages. Keep in mind this class is run as a college course and some of the titles contain mature themes. Parents may have the final word on which books students read. Books can be purchased, found online, or may even be free through the RHS library, library website, or Gutenberg.org.

The Assignment:

#1: Annotate the text as you read. This is a very important skill to have and will be good practice for the year ahead. This course requires extensive reading. Annotating will help you organize your notes and understand the material. You will get the most out of your experiences reading historical texts when you actively engage in a dialogue with the book. A few things to keep in mind as you are annotating:

- Pinpoint and define vocabulary
- Identifying main ideas and important themes
- Evaluating the author(s) intentions, assumptions or point of view
- Your reactions to the text
- Questions you may have
- Connections you can make

*Keep your annotations. We will be using these texts and your assignments as a reference point as we move throughout the course. When we reach the time period that your book pertains to you will be asked to lead discussions.

#2 Essay

- Write one or two introductory paragraphs summarizing the key focus and themes of the book. This is setting the context for your paper. Be sure to clearly explain your reasoning and conclusions.
 - Think about the historical intent of the author(s)
 - What are the major overall themes that the author(s) are interested in exploring?
 - Is there a clear point of view?
 - Can you identify bias?
 - What is the purpose of the text?

- Next select 4 historical events or concepts that are explored in the book and write a reflection for each.
 - Each reflection must have a thesis statement. Remember you are arguing a thesis NOT narrating history.
 - Reflections should briefly summarize and then explain why the concept or theme is significant in European history.
 - If you choose to read fiction, you should be explaining how the event or concept is a reflection of European history at the time. Look for the event(s) triggered or the pattern of future behavior set in place as discussed by the author.
 - In any case, fiction or non-fiction, use information and evidence from the text to support your argument.
- Write a conclusion paragraph. In your conclusion try to make connections to the text. Possible connections could be:
 - Can you identify any patterns of continuity and change over time, causes or effects or comparisons you can make throughout European history?
 - Can you make any connections to American history.
 - Can you offer any alternative perspectives on the topics?

Essays must be MLA format, typed double spaced in size 12 Times New Roman font. There is no word or page limitations. With this in mind, I am not interested in an essay full of quotations. I am more interested in your thought process. Essays are due on the first day of class and may be submitted through Google Classroom.

See you in September! ☺

Suggested List of Reading for AP European History

Candide	Voltaire
The Prince	Niccolo Machiavelli
Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created Our World	Thomas Cahill
1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created***	Charles C. Mann
Guns, Germs, and Steel***	Jared Diamond
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich	Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
The Bosnia List	Kenan Trebincevic
Brunelleschi's Dome: How a Renaissance Genius Recreated Architecture	Ross King
The Great Cat Massacre	Robert Darnton
Heart of Darkness	Joseph Conrad
The Swerve: How the World Became Modern	Stephen Greenblatt
All Quiet on the Western Front	Erich Maria Remarque
King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa	Adam Hochschild
Salt: A World History	Mark Kurlansky
Postwar: A History of Europe after 1945***	Tony Judt
The Artist, the Philosopher, and the Warrior: The Intersecting Lives of Da Vinci, Machiavelli, and Borgia and the World They Shaped.	Paul Strathern
The Romanovs ***	Simon Sebag Montefiore
Disease and History (chapters 1-7)	Frederick Cartwright
Napoleon; A Life***	Andrew Roberts
The Days of the French Revolution	Christopher Hibbert
How Paris Became Paris: The Invention of the Modern City	Joan DeJean
Vienna 1814	David King
Suffragette: The Autobiography of Emmeline Pankhurst	Emmeline Pankhurst
The European Union: Politics and Policies	John McCormick & Johnathan Olsen
Schindler's List	Thomas Keneally