



Pocono Mountain School District

Office of Curriculum and Instruction
125 Center Court – Swiftwater, PA 18370

Advanced Placement European History Summer Reading Assignment

Dear AP European History Student:

Congratulations on your enrollment in the Advanced Placement European History course. The study of European history since 1450 introduces students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of AP European History are to develop (a) an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, (b) an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and (c) an ability to express historical understanding in writing.

Enrolled students are expected to take the Advanced Placement (AP) examination in May. The exam is approximately 3 hours and consists of a 55-minute multiple-choice section and a 130-minute free-response section. The multiple-choice section consists of 80 questions designed to measure the student's knowledge of European history from the High Renaissance to the present. Approximately one-half of the questions deal with the period from 1450 to the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic era and one-half from the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic era to the present. The questions covering the nineteenth century and the twentieth century are divided evenly (approximately 25 percent of the total number of questions for each century). On the AP exam, approximately one-third of the questions focus on cultural and intellectual themes, one-third on political and diplomatic themes, and one-third on social and economic themes. The tests are then scored by readers for the College Board and ETS in June and final scores are available to download in early July. Scores range from 1 to 5, with 3 or better considered as "passing", and therefore eligible to receive college credit in many universities and colleges.

AP European History is designed to be taught at the college level. Consequently, some students may initially find the pace and workload difficult. To prepare for this transition, class expectations will be provided to students at the beginning of the school year.

There is a mandatory summer reading and related writing assignment required for all students enrolled in AP European History. Students are required to read the book listed below which is available in libraries, bookstores, and online vendors.

Manchester, William. *A World Lit Only by Fire: The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance: Portrait of an Age*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1992.

Upon completion of the novel, please write a minimum two-page, typed, double-spaced paper in MLA style in response to the following prompt:

Using examples from the text explain the intellectual, religious, and political mindset of medieval society as portrayed by the author.

Please refer to <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/677/01/> for assistance in formatting your paper and any internal documentation. This essay, which is due September 11, 2015 is worth 10% of your first marking period grade.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Smith
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Federal Programs
Pocono Mountain School District