

Classical High School Summer Reading 2019



Advanced Placement European History Summer Reading Essay Assignment

Summer Reading Assignment: Select one title and complete a book analysis based on the information below.

Due Date: September 2, 2019

Analysis: (400-500 words) Take into account and consider the book's thesis and themes, the evidence used to support the thesis and themes, and what you found to be most interesting about the book. Prior to reading, consider reviewing other sources, whether text or digital, to get a clear historical background about the period of history, the people, or the events relevant to the books content.

Throughout the year, you will be challenged to think and write as a historian. You will have ample opportunities to develop thesis and argumentative statements that must be thoroughly defended with sound evidence. In doing so, we will consider and debate author's point-of-view, intended audience, purpose and historical context. This summer reading is a good first step into what will be an engaging, interactive, academically rigorous worthwhile experience in AP Euro! See you in September and enjoy your summer!

Format: MLA guidelines

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html

- Introductory "historical background" is relevant, concise, and clearly explained
- Topic sentences that link to thesis: What do you consider to be the significant theme(s) throughout the book i.e. power, revenge etc.
- Body paragraphs that are reflective of your thesis
- Avoid first person

* You'll notice that most, but not all of these selections pertain to the Italian Renaissance. This period (1400-1648) is where we will begin this course in the fall. However, please choose whichever text interests you the most.

Book Choices:

1. *A World Lit Only by Fire* – William Manchester

A portrait of the Medieval and Renaissance world

2. *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling* – Ross King

The story of the painting of the Sistine Chapel and the surrounding intrigue

3. *Bruneschelli's Dome* – Ross King

The design and building of St. Peter's Dome in the Vatican

4. *Guns, Germs and Steel* – Jared Diamond

Why Eurasians have consistently ruled the world

5. *Modern Europe in the Making* – George Fasel

This book begins with the French Revolution and ends with the Common Market

6. *Nazi Seizure of Power* – William Sheridan Allen

An unassuming German town helps Hitler's rise to power

7. *The Prince* – Niccolo Machiavelli

Informative classic on power politics during the Italian Renaissance

8. *The Great Cat Massacre* – Robert Darnton

Cultural French history in unique stories

9. *Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created our World* – Thomas Cahill

Traces the developments in European thought and experience that served both the new humanism of the Renaissance and the seemingly abrupt religious alterations of the increasingly radical Reformation