

A.P. WORLD HISTORY

Mr. Smith

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2018

Overview:

This is a newly-revised course by the College Board. It is specifically designed to be a non-Eurocentric, holistic view of world history. It is not a regional studies course like our World History requirement. Rather, it is a chronological survey from a global perspective, not a “the west and the rest” type of history course. Only 30% of the course can be European History. It will emphasize controversial social issues and issues of inequality while stressing analytical skills. After a brief, but important, foundation segment the course starts about 600ce. The course leaves things out. It is not a memorization race.

This is not the course to take if you are looking to “pad” your transcripts, and it is not your freshmen history class again. If you do not enjoy analytic history avoid this class. We are seeking people who look forward to preparing for class on their own time, reading the textbook, then discussing and evaluating historic phenomena in the classroom. It is expected that all students taking this course will take the national AP World History Exam in the spring.

Reading List:

The following is a list of books, in addition to our text, that will be read throughout the year. All of these books are available from Warren Hills, however, the list is presented in the event you want to purchase your own copies for the purpose of note taking, highlighting, etc.

Diamond, Jared. Guns, Germs, and Steel. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1999

Dunn, Ross E. The Adventures of Ibn Battuta. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1989

Overfield, Andrea. The Human Record Vol. I & II. 4th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2001

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. The Communist Manifesto. New York: Bantam Books 1992

Preparatory Requirements:

There are only 2 summer readings that accompany this class. One is required, while the other is optional. Both will be available at the high school in June.

The first one will be used to write an evaluative paper in September. Burning Country: Syrians in Revolution and War by Robin Yassin-Kassab and Laila Al-Shami describes the post-Ottoman history and current situation in war-torn Syria. It draws on first-hand accounts and testimonials. The paper will be assigned when we return to school in August. Suffice to say it will be rather lengthy with very little time to complete.

Therefore, it is imperative that you finish the book before returning to school. It will not be possible to read the book and complete the paper in the amount of time you will be given. The paper will count as a test grade for the first marking period. *No papers will be accepted late.*

The second book, World History for Dummies, I simply had to throw in, but is optional. The purpose of this book is to establish a common base of knowledge for everyone in the class. Since we all come from different academic backgrounds it is designed to even the playing field. The course starts about 600ce. I therefore suggest you peruse the information in this book and familiarize yourself with major historic events prior to this era. This “text” lends itself to this type of perusal, and dispenses with irrelevant historic data. During the exercise pay particular attention to the five major regions of the ancient world. (China, Europe, Africa, The Middle East, and Mesoamerica) When the course begins in September it is important that we all know something of the history of the world prior to 600ce.

Both of these books are readily available at major bookstores, on-line, and at Warren Hills. If you would like to purchase them for yourself, Burning Country . . . retails for \$15.82 and the “Dummies” book can be purchased for about \$12.99.

A few things to look for when reading the book:

- What are the primary and secondary themes of the book?
- What role did history play in the current Syrian conflict?
- Who are the primary players in Syria, and how do they differ?

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact either myself (smithj@warrenhills.org) or Mr. Keith Dennison, the Social Studies Dept. Chair at dennisonk@warrenhills.org .

This book must be completed no later than Thursday, August 29, 2018.