



Pocono Mountain School District

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

PO Box 200 · Swiftwater, PA 18730 · 570-839-7121

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 15 minutes and consists of four sections: multiple-choice, short-answers, document based question (DBQ), and long essay (LEQ). Multiple choice questions include stimulus sources that require students to analyze primary, secondary, and images (artwork, posters...). The short-answer questions are divided into specific time periods. The DBQ deals with historical events from 1600-2001. Lastly, students select an LEQ from three possible time periods. 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, students will 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 assignment will be worth 10% of your first marking period grade and is due by Friday, September 10, 2021.

Sincerely,

Amy Buffington,
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Federal Programs
Pocono Mountain School District