

Themes of AP World History- for Summer Reading

There are SIX overarching themes that you should keep in mind as you progress through the course. These themes serve as unifying threads to help you look at the “big picture” of world history. Furthermore, they identify areas to facilitate comparisons and connections between periods and/or cultures. The themes are:

1. **Patterns and effects of interaction among societies and regions:** trade, war (NOT civil wars), diplomacy, and international organizations.
2. **The effects of technology, economics, and demography on people and the environment:** any tool/invention that makes work easier, formation of towns and/or cities, population growth and decline, disease, labor systems, manufacturing, migrations, agriculture, weaponry.
3. **Systems of social structure and gender structure:** differences between groups within a society or across societies with respect to social class, age, gender, race, and ethnicity.
4. **Cultural, intellectual and religious developments, including interactions among and within societies:** art and architecture, math and science, philosophy, literature and history, fashion, music and dance, religion, values, and cultural diffusion of all listed here.
5. **Changes in functions and structures of states and in attitudes toward states and political identities, including the emergence of the nation-state:** types of government, who and how power is invested, range and limits on political power, impact of the government on society, rights and liberties of the people, forms of political protest, challenges to government power, including civil war.
6. **The dynamics of change and continuity** across the world history periods covered in this course, and the causes and processes involved in major changes of these dynamics.

Looking at the World Thematically- There are 6 Themes of AP WORLD HISTORY.

When you are assigned chapter(s) from the textbook to read, look at them thematically. A constant expectation in AP World is to look at civilizations comparatively. This is not a course that focuses on the minute details of each civilization but rather the major achievements, events, religions, social aspects etc. Often we look at what changes and what stays the same. Your summer reading chart asks you to look the civilizations you have already studied in World 9 in a different way. By separating information into each theme, you will be expected to identify elements that fit each theme as well as make relevant connections and analysis. Therefore put only the most essential information, which summarizes minute details. (For example, for one category that fits you could mention pieces of technology, how the technology allowed people to overcome existing obstacles, and any ways society was changed.)