

APEH SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT & USEFUL INFORMATION

BACKGROUND:

The best method for achieving success on the APEH exam and earning college credit is to expand your breadth and depth of content knowledge. It is difficult to cover the vast scope of European History in a yearlong survey course. Increasingly, AP schools are offering summer reading programs to supplement curricular materials. This activity is not a “weed-out” assignment and shouldn’t be viewed as burdensome; rather, it is an opportunity for you to remain creatively and critically engaged in the content during the summer, which will hopefully excite you about taking the course. Successful completion of this assignment will also demonstrate your readiness for college-level analysis and prepare you for success in AP Modern European History.

ASSIGNMENT:

Read Machiavelli’s *The Prince* (numerous copies widely available at libraries and area bookstores) and write a book review (see following guidelines). This will be your first graded project for the first quarter. Be prepared to participate in a comprehensive class discussion/Socratic seminar in which you will have an opportunity to share your insights, opinions, and analysis of *The Prince*. First impressions are important, so do your best work!

DUE DATE:

This assignment is due on the **first day of school** following summer vacation. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students who add the course late.

PROCEDURE:

Write a three to five page summary/analysis of *The Prince* (typed and double spaced) incorporating the following elements:

- **SUMMARY (1 ½ -2 ½ pages):** Develop a concise, well-written, accurate, and thoughtful summary of the book. Your description should include an analysis and interpretation of the author’s thesis or major points/ideas. Consider also the author’s intended audience and purpose.
- **ANALYSIS/REACTION (1 ½ -2 ½ pages):** Draw your own conclusions from the book. What is your own critical analysis and interpretation (A & I) of the author’s major themes or points-of-view (POV)? Briefly comment on whether you believe the author’s thesis/major points were effectively communicated. Finally, do you agree or disagree with the author’s POV? Are Machiavelli’s views still relevant today? Why or why not? Elaborate by providing specific examples from the book to support your own conclusions. Among other things, I will be grading your written work on your overall depth of analysis (DOA).

EVALUATION:

Projects/book reviews are cumulatively worth 20% of your quarter grade. The grading rubric for this book review is as follows:

5 - Exceptional project. (A+ grade) All of the above requirements met, and major components of the project as described above included in the final draft; excellent written summary/analysis; thesis supported with appropriate examples/excerpts/quotations from the book; interpretation of the topic historically accurate; final draft demonstrates creativity, effort, and neatness. Participates actively and responsibly in Socratic discussion.

4.5 - (A- grade) Fulfills most, if not all, of the above requirements, but does not quite rise to the level of a 5 for specific reason(s).

4 - Good project. (B+ grade) No more than **one** of the above elements lacking in some way.

3.5 - (B- grade) Fulfills most, if not all, of the above requirements, but does not quite rise to the level of a 4 for specific reason(s).

3 - Average project. (C+ grade) No more than **two** of the above elements lacking in some way.

2.5 - (C- grade) Fulfills most, if not all, of the above requirements, but does not quite rise to the level of a 3 for specific reason(s).

2 - Below average project. (D+ grade) **Three or more** elements lacking in some way.

1.5 - (D- grade) Fulfills most, if not all, of the above requirements, but does not quite rise to the level of a 2 for specific reason(s).

1 - Failing project. (F grade) **Does not meet** any of the above criteria. Decidedly lacking in effort and creativity.

0 - No project submitted.

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR AP MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

CLASS TEXTS:

Although optional, some students like to purchase a copy of the text to get a head start on their reading assignments and to be able to highlight and write in it, etc. For those of you who are interested, the title of our class text follows. Copies are widely available on Amazon.com and at major booksellers:

The Making of the West Since 1340, 3rd Edition. Hunt, Lynn et al. Bedford/St. Martin's Press (Note: when purchased new, the textbook comes bundled with a primary source reader that we will also be using in class).

THE FOLLOWING IS OPTIONAL BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

I suggest that you purchase a new or used copy of one or more of the following resources. I think that you will find them to be invaluable resources for the course and nice additions to your home library:

1. *Modern European History* by Birdsall Viault. McGraw Hill College Outline Series. Handy reference for getting the “big picture fast”, and for test review.
2. *The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History from Prehistoric to Post-Modern* by Carol Strickland and John Boswell. Wonderful Art History resource used in AP Art History throughout FCPS. The APEH exam is becoming more *visual*. This book will help you identify major Western artistic trends and movements, and the events that shaped them.

I also recommend that you purchase one or more of the APEH review guides with practice tests, etc. *REA, Princeton Review, Arco, Cliff's, and Barron's* (to name a few) all publish review guides with their own specific strengths and weaknesses. Some have better practice tests, while others are stronger on content. Browse through them at your local bookstore and select one or more that accommodates your learning style. Used review books are also widely available, so check with a former European History student, the internet, or a used bookstore in the area for inexpensive copies.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

Finally, I strongly suggest that you browse the following websites to familiarize yourself with AP programs in general and APEH course requirements in particular:

www.collegeboard.com

www.collegeboard.com/ap/students/eurohistory/index.html

Have a great summer. I look forward to seeing you in September!

Mr. Novák