

2020 A.P. WORLD HISTORY SUMMER ASSIGNMENTⁱ

Bexley High School - Mr. Featherstone

Introduction:

Greetings! I welcome you to the greatest academic challenge of your lives! AP World History explores the expansive history of the human world from prehistory to the present day, which is staggering in its scale. At points we will cover hundreds of years of history over the course of single day, and then hurtle to a completely different part of the world for the next day's study. This course requires mental agility, resilience, an incredible work ethic, and a passion for learning. To get us off on the right foot and to give me a sense of where you are coming from academically, I have prepared a summer assignment.

Summer Reading:

Incoming A.P. World History students are required to purchase and read *A History of the World in Six Glasses* by Tom Standage. This work provides an interesting historical analysis of six different beverages and their impact during six important eras of history. The book effectively provides a broad overview of history and encourages an understanding of the numerous forces (political, cultural, economic, technological, social, religious and ecological) which affect the development of civilizations and the interactions between diverse societies.

Important Disclaimer:

The use of this book in no way represents an endorsement of the use or misuse of any of the beverages.

Assignment Pt. 1 (Read and prep for Graded Discussion):

One of the first things we do this year will be to have a graded class discussion over the material in the book. As such you will need obviously have read the book, but you will also need to remember it. So, when you are reading it, you should take BRIEF notes (hand-written only) to be able to use during our discussion. You will NOT turn these in, but instead use them as a reference.

Assignment Pt. 2 (One essay)

Select ONE of the following questions and answer it.

- 1) What is the most significant historical continuity demonstrated in this book (and why is it the most significant)?
OR
- 2) What is the most significant historical change demonstrated in this book (and why is it the most significant)?
OR
- 3) What is the most striking similarity that you see between any two civilizations demonstrated in this book (and why is it the most striking)?
OR
- 4) What is the most striking difference that you see between any two civilizations demonstrated in this book?

This should be about 2-3 pages, enough to lay out an argument and begin trying to use evidence to support it.. Over the course of this year, we will spending a great deal of time examining continuities and changes in history, as well as comparisons between civilizations. This assignment is to get you thinking this way, and to help me see where we are in terms of writing

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and argumentation. History is NOT about memorizing facts, it is about understanding processes and how everything fits together. There is no ONE right answer, but there are wrong answers. Make an argument and defend it (briefly).

The Elephant in the room:

At this time, I don't have any idea what the fall is going to look like, which is honestly all the more reason we need to hit the ground running with a shared experience (discussing the Summer Reading). Please make sure you do this!

Summary:

1) So, buy the book. Read it (while taking some basic notes for you to use later). Write ONE short paper (be concise). That's it. You may want to consider doing this later in the summer, so the book is fresher in your mind when we start.

Contact me at Michael.Featherstone@bexleyschools.org if you have any questions...

Questions to Considerⁱⁱ

I am including some questions for you to think about and for you to use as a guide. Please do not just write out the answers to all of these... it would turn this assignment into a slog... which is not the intention. In reading and taking notes, students are advised to consider the following:

“Beer in Mesopotamia and Egypt”

1. How is the discovery of beer linked to the growth of the first “civilizations”?
2. What is the relationship between beer and writing, commerce, and health?

“Wine in Greece and Rome”

1. How did the use of wine differ from that of beer in ancient Greece and Rome?
2. How and why did wine develop into a form of a status symbol in Greece?
3. How did the use of wine in Roman culture differ from that of ancient Greece?
4. What is the relationship between wine and empire, medicine, and religion?

“Spirits in the Colonial Period”

1. What is the origin of distilled spirits?
2. What is the connection between spirits and colonization?
3. How was the production of spirits connected to slavery?
4. In the 18th century, how did spirits help Britain have a more superior navy than France?

“Coffee in the Age of Reason”

1. Who did Europeans get coffee from and how did it spread to Europe?
2. Describe coffee's effect on the global balance of power (in terms of commerce).
3. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the scientific revolution?
4. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the “financial revolution”?
5. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the Enlightenment and French Revolution?

“Tea and the British Empire”

1. How did the consumption of tea in Europe differ from how it was consumed in China or Japan?
2. How did tea transform English society? Who were its main consumers and what were some of

the new rituals that surrounded tea?

3. How was tea an integral part of the Industrial Revolution?
4. What was the connection between tea and politics?
5. How was tea connected to the opium trade and the Opium War of 1839-1842?
6. What role did the tea trade and production play in the British rule over India?

“Coca-Cola and the Rise of America”

1. What was the relationship of coke and World War II?
2. How was coke thought of by the communists during the Cold War?
3. What is meant by “globalization in a bottle”?
4. How did Coca-Cola come to be seen as an American value? How did this help and hurt Coca-Cola (and, in some ways, America itself?)

“Epilogue”

1. Do you agree with the author’s choice in the epilogue? Why or why not?

ⁱ Assignment adapted from Fulton County Schools.