

June 12, 2006

Dear Students:

Welcome to Advanced Placement European History. Following you will find an attached copy of the Summer Independent Study Program. Please read through this completely and discuss it with your parents. A completed assignment is your admission ticket to success in this class.

Enrollment in this course is a commitment to perform at the highest level and to display a positive attitude within the class. Also, maturity level demonstrating seriousness in maximizing one's comprehensive and composition skills and a love for history are expected. Due to the advanced level of this course, some of the material we will use is very graphic in terms of action violence, adult language, and sexual content, which include videos and movies that students will view. This is an important part of social history and past students have commented on how much it has helped them to understand everyday life as well as the morals and values of the different time periods.

The focus of this course is, obviously, preparing each student for the Advanced Placement European History Exam. Students who are enrolling without honors English and History background or who have received less than a 90% in World History and English courses may not be prepared to deal with the volume of work, time constraints, and performance level required for above average grades in an accelerated program. Students must expect anywhere from 45-120 minutes of homework on any given night. Students and their Parents/Guardians must understand that the requirements and time limits are not negotiable.

If you feel that you are up for the challenge, know that these standards cannot be compromised and welcome aboard! Complete your summer assignment, which is due on or before Monday, August 14, 2006.

If I can be of assistance to you at any time, please contact me at school at 578-7000 and leave a message or e-mail me at garnetda@cps.k12.va.us.

Sincerely,

**Ms. Tiffany Garnes
Advanced Placement European History Teacher**

Part I: Background Material

Your assignment for the summer is to use your history textbook, encyclopedia and other research resources to complete Steps #1-5:

1. Read Chapters 10 and 11 of your textbook, Western Civilization.
(*send an e-mail to Ms. Garnes to receive a textbook*)
 2. Complete the Identifications that are provided for you for each chapter. These identifications all pertain to the history of Europe during the Middle Ages (sometimes referred to as the Medieval Period) and the Renaissance. You should define each of them with at least three descriptive facts of information. Some will require much more detailed explanations than others.
 3. Outline the chapters and include important facts, places and people.
 4. Write down any words you are unfamiliar with and define them as you read. It is not logical that you are able to define every word other than what is on your Identifications lists. The textbook you are using is a college level textbook.
 5. Complete the Late Middle Ages to the Reformation Worksheet Packet with Maps. (*copies available in IRH Guidance*)
 6. Upon arrival for class on September 5, 2006, each student will have:
 - a. Read and Outlined Chapter 12
 - b. Completed Chapter 12 Identifications
 - c. Completed Chapter 12 Study Review Worksheets.
- ***(Letters a, b, and c are usually what is assigned for one week of homework during the regular school year.) Students are allowed to turn this in with the summer assignment OR they may wait and have it ready to be turned in on the first day of school.

Part II: Summer Readings

Your summer reading/writing assignment is designed to enrich your knowledge of European History, enhance your interest, and increase your commitment to your Advanced Placement European History course. Learning, thinking, and commitment should help you to enjoy and succeed in the class.

You must purchase your own copy of the summer readings from the local bookstores. If you borrow a copy from the public library instead, keep in mind we will refer back to the books during the regular school year and at that point you will need your own copy.

At this level, students should no longer be writing book reports but should write book reviews. A book review requires the student to interpret, critically analyze and evaluate the contents of a book. Use the Book Review guidelines as follows to help you write your review. Observe formal writing guidelines. Points will be deducted, even for misspelled words. Students are required to type both the critique and the summary for both of the summer readings.

Required Book Review:

On, The Prince, Nicolo Machiavelli

- 1. The Summary** – Consists of a discussion of the major features, trends, themes, ideas and characteristics. It should be no more than 2 typed pages.
 - Use your own words. Combine ideas from the book into new sentences of your own. Avoid copying the original language, and put quotes around any that you do borrow. Summarizing is a good way to learn, to assimilate material, but the process does not work very well unless you translate the original into your own language.
 - Generally, it is best when summarizing to follow the organization of the original.
 - Your aim should be to give a true but condensed picture of the book, including the way it is organized.
- 2. The Critique** – Consists of your thoughts, responses, and reactions to what you have read. This is the heart of your review. It should be no less than 2-3 typed pages and the following questions are examples of the kind you should consider as you read your book and prepare the critique.
 - What is your overall opinion of the book, and why?

- How effectively and in what ways does the theme of the book or arguments of the author reflect what you already know?
 - How well has the author achieved his aims? Are these aims supported or justified?
 - Does the author seem fair and accurate? Is there any distortion, exaggeration, or diminishing of material? Is the overall interpretation biased, subjective, slanted, and objective? Does the author try to look at both sides of the issue?
 - Is the book interesting or boring, and why? Does the material presented raise your curiosity about the subject, and why?
 - Is there enough information in the book? Is the subject treated thoroughly or summarily?
 - Did you feel satisfied, disappointed, or puzzled by the book, and why?
 - How well is the book written? (Should you use quotes as examples, keep them very short, preferably no more than one sentence.)
 - Is there anything distinctive or noteworthy about the book? (Give examples where useful.)
3. Answer provided attached questions #1-12.
 4. Complete Document Activity Worksheets on Machiavelli.

You will be required to purchase or obtain your own copy of:

1. **Candide, Voltaire**
(Required Reading for the Winter Break.)
2. **Sophie's World, Gaarder**
(Required Reading for the Spring Break.)

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

I have read through the information and understand that this summer assignment is a requirement to be completed and turned in by **August 14, 2006**. I have also read over the Welcome Letter and understand the course and its requirements.

(STUDENT NAME)

(ADDRESS)

(PHONE NUMBER)

(EMAIL ADDRESS)

(STUDENT SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

(PARENT SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

- 1. Turn in this page as a requirement attached to your summer assignment by the due date.***
- 2. Turn in your Summer Assignment to the main office during the hours of 9-2 and have the school secretary place it in my mailbox.***
- 3. I will be picking up all assignments by 3PM that day.***
- 4. Enjoy your summer! I look forward to a fun-filled school year of learning!***