

AP European History
Summer Assignment
2024/2025 Academic Year



Google Classroom Code: **675qxb**
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Welcome to AP European History! This is a rigorous, college-level course designed to introduce you to the history of Europe from 1450 to the present. It divides European History into nine units, each of which will be covered thoroughly during the year. Although there are certainly a lot of names, wars, and dates involved, this class is primarily a class about *ideas* and *skills*. From the time of the Renaissance, when we can see the seeds of many of today's values emerging, through the fall of Communism, it will challenge you to think critically by analyzing texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence in order to write essays expressing historical arguments.

As this course covers a substantial amount of historical material spanning over half a millennium (accompanied by many themes and concepts), it is imperative that we hit the ground running in September. As such, the following assignments are designed to ensure that you are familiar with both the rigor and pace of the course.

So what are the assignments? You will complete three parts in which you will read three (yes, three! This is a history class after all... ☺) key books concerning the development and understanding of European History. Each part comprises an essay relating to a book that you will have read. These assignments must be completed by the deadline listed below and submitted via email. Once they are completed, we will begin with the Renaissance period and drive forward thereafter.

Final checklist:

Here is a checklist:

- Sign up to our Google Classroom with the code: **6dloekj**. You will submit the essays here.
- Purchase our textbook: [John McKay; Clare Crowston; Merry Wiesner-Hanks; Joe Perr, *A History of Western Society Since 1300 for the AP® Course. Launchpad + Hardcover. ISBN:9781319360269*](#)
- Complete Summer Assignment Part 1
- Complete Summer Assignment Part 2
- Complete Summer Assignment Part 3
- Breathe! - see you soon!

Do not hesitate to reach out via email if you have any questions as you work through this Summer Assignment. Go n-éiri leat!

- Dr. Lawlor

Part 1: Europe: An Introduction

READ: Please read the following book: [David Mason, *A Concise History of Modern Europe: Liberty, Equality* \(2018\).](#)

Once you have read through the book, please answer the essay question. The essay must be a minimum of 3 pages in length (12-point font, double spaced).

QUESTION: Historian David Mason examines key events, ideas, and individuals that have shaped modern Europe. Craft an essay in which you argue for what you believe to be the three most pertinent events that have defined Europe in the 21st century. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- ★ The Enlightenment
- ★ The French Revolution and Napoleon
- ★ The Industrial Revolution
- ★ The theories and impact of Marx and Darwin
- ★ The revolutions of 1848, 1917, and 1989
- ★ The unifications of Germany and Italy;
- ★ European imperialism
- ★ The two world wars
- ★ The Cold War
- ★ The evolution and expansion of the European Union

Part 2: Early Modern Europe

Now that we have examined the major events of modern Europe, we will shift our focus on the key events that defined its foundation: the Early Modern Period. Roughly spanning 1450-1720, this period of modern history sets the stage for modernity.

Please select *one* book from the following list. Once you have read the book, craft an essay analyzing the book of choice. The essay must be a minimum of 3 pages in length (12-point font, double spaced).

- ★ **Book option #1:** [William Manchester, *A World Lit Only by Fire* \(1993\)](#)
- ★ **Book option #2:** [Robert Darnot, *The Great Cat Massacre: And Other Episodes in French Cultural History* \(2009\)](#)
- ★ **Book option #3:** [Natalie Zemon Davis: *The Return of Martin Guerre* \(1983\)](#)

Once you have read the book, it's time to write! You will hear this *many* times from me over the next year, but this is the question that will guide every essay you write in this class: *so what, who cares?* I am sure you have an opinion on the book that you just read, now it is time to craft a response to this question.

In essence, you must analyze the book; do not merely describe its contents. Points to consider include the author's purpose, the book's thesis and major points, and the factual evidence used to support them, the view of history that the book provides, the book's organization, and what you found to be most interesting (or not) about the book.

Part 3: A Closer Look at the Sources...

Whereas part one has offered a broad view of the course and part two has illustrated key secondary works in the field of European history, this final part will dive into the key sources that underline European History. Once again, you must choose **one** of the following three works and then craft an essay analyzing the book of choice. The essay must be a minimum of 3 pages in length (12-point font, double spaced).

- ★ **Book option #1:** [Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince](#) (1532)
- ★ **Book option #2:** [Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan](#) (1651)
- ★ **Book option #3:** [Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Of the Social Contract and Other Political Writings](#) (1762)

Once you have read the book, it's time to write... again! Like the last question, you must write an essay analyzing the book of choice. In other words, *so what, who cares?* I am sure you have an opinion on the book that you just read, now it is time to craft a response to this question.

In essence, you must analyze the primary work; do not merely describe its contents. Points to consider include the author's purpose, the book's thesis and major points, and the factual evidence used to support them, the view of history that the book provides, the book's organization, and what you found to be most interesting (or not) about the book.

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