

2023/2024 GPHS AP WORLD HISTORY (Modern) SUMMER ASSIGNMENT (Please Read All of This!)

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Welcome to AP World History (Modern)! I commend you for your choice in taking this course and look forward to working with you in the 2023-2024 school year. Over the course of the academic year, we will be looking at a wide swath of human history. It is a fascinating proposition: we will start with a brief overview of our first, tentative, steps toward civilization through the rise and fall of the classical civilizations. Then, we slow down a bit and focus more thoroughly on world history over the last 800 years or so. Given the scope of the course, it should be apparent that the class will be fast-paced. Additionally, the rigor and discipline of the course - as well as the skills learned and refined - will provide you with a sound foundation for taking AP US History in the 11th grade. The AP World History (Modern) course is designed to give you a challenging thematic curriculum on par with comparable college courses. In May of 2024 you will have the opportunity to take the AP Exam and possibly earn college credit.

In September, we will discuss the specific requirements for the class and the AP exam. For now, however, your task is to complete the following summer assignment that will be included in your first progress report next year. The reason for having a summer assignment is to give us a head start on the curriculum as well as to give you a bird's eye view of the scope of the course.

This year's summer assignment consists of one task: Read ONE of the two books below and write a short paper on it. Both books give a nice overview of history through the lens of very basic elements – food or drink (**due Friday, September 8th**). Details on next page.

Option A: *A History of the World in Six Glasses* by Tom Standage provides a breezy overview of world history by looking at how six drinks illustrate, or played a role in, six corresponding eras in world history.

“6 Glasses” is a book which takes an innovative approach to world history. The author looks at the development of world civilizations through the prism of the beverages that people drank in various time periods. These are (in chronological order): beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea and Coca-Cola. *The use of this book as a summer reading assignment in no way represents any endorsement by the teachers [or the Snohomish School District] of the use or misuse of any of these beverages, alcoholic, caffeinated or otherwise.* The book merely offers an innovative and (hopefully) interesting perspective to initiate our year-long discussion of world history. Our purpose in reading the book is to get a sense of how civilizations and cultures develop and how numerous forces (political, technological, economic, social, religious, cultural, ecological) all affect even the most mundane-seeming aspects of people's daily lives. When you are drinking a coke on a hot day this summer, it is not an accident. There are historical forces at work that have put that can of coke in your hand. This book explores those forces.” (Adapted from http://www.fcps.edu/LakeBraddockSS/summer2009/APWH_2009.pdf)

IMPORTANT – READ THIS! Assignment: *For each of the six eras, write one well-developed (at least a solid half-page in length, size 12-font, 1" margins, single spaced) paragraph summing up the connection between that era and the particular drink associated with it. Did the drink have a particular impact on the era, or does it somehow represent the zeitgeist of that era? (Or does it do both?) Explain.*

Option B: *An Edible History of Humanity* by Tom Standage provides a look at the role of food in human history from its role in the birth of civilization to the population explosion of the 20th century.

“This book provides a look at the role of food in human history from its role in the birth of civilization to the population explosion of the 20th century. “(Standage)... shows how one of humanity's most vital needs (hunger) didn't simply reflect, but served as the driving force behind transformative and key events in history.” (<http://www.amazon.com/Edible-History-Humanity-Tom-Standage/dp/0802715885>)

“...*Edible History*...” is divided into six parts, each of which examines how food was a significant catalyst during important transformational eras or events in human history. The six parts are:

Part I: The Edible Foundations of Civilization

Part II: Food and Social Structure

Part III: Global Highways of Food

Part IV: Food, Energy and Industrialization

Part V: Food as a Weapon

Part VI: Food, Population and Development

IMPORTANT – READ THIS! Assignment: Write a one paragraph summary –well developed (at least a solid half-page in length, size 12-font, 1” margins, single spaced) for EACH of the above-mentioned six parts. In each paragraph, explain how the author is connecting the role of food to a era or concept (Be sure to briefly describe what that era or concept is.)

Try the Alderwood Barnes and Noble (and if they don’t have any copies on the shelf, they can order a copy for you). You can also try used bookstores, such as Half-Price Books, which have books at very low prices. It is also possible to purchase either book at Amazon.com for a reasonable price. While it is convenient to have your own copy in which to take notes, underline, etc., there are also some copies available in the local public libraries.

Important Final Note: This is a Canvas assignment that you should be able to upload to Canvas. It will automatically go through an originality app so **please do your own work!** Also, if you have problems uploading the assignment you can make a copy of it and send it as an email attachment to me and I can take it from there.