

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

THE PROGRAM

AP European History, sponsored by the College Board, offers ambitious and capable high school students the opportunity to take college level courses for credit prior to entering an undergraduate program at the university level.

The Program is designed to help you develop the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems of and materials related to European history from approximately 1450 AD to the present. Students will learn to assess historical materials--their relevance to a given issue, their reliability, and their importance--in order to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship.

Compared to your regular high school coursework, AP European history will be more demanding. The course moves rapidly and covers a lot of ground. You will be asked to read and write more, to analyze historical material, and to both synthesize and evaluate ideas. These skills, necessary in most history classes, will be exercised at a higher level of complexity in your AP class.

The primary objective of the course is to prepare you for the AP examinations that take place in May of each school year. To be successful, you must be both willing and able. "Willing" means motivated to study and learn at the college level. If you are committed to participating actively in the classroom and can keep up with (or better yet stay ahead of) reading and writing assignments, you have met a major pre-requisite for success.

READING LIST

Mandatory Texts:

- A History of The Modern World, by R.R. Palmer and Joel Colton (**school supplied textbook**)
- A History of World Societies, by John McKay et al (**school supplied textbook**)
- A World Lit Only By Fire, by William Manchester. (ISBN 0-316-54556-2) Available at most bookstores or Amazon.com)

Mandatory Study Aids:

- AP Achiever European History 2nd edition, by Chris Freiler. McGraw-Hill © 2017 (ISBN 13: 9780078976421) (note: 1st edition is outdated and does not correspond to the new test format)
- Modern European History, by Birdsall S. Vialt. Schaum's/McGraw Hill ©1990 (ISBN 0-07-067453-1)

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

1. Read chapter 1 (pp.1-45) from Palmer's A History of the Modern World and answer the study questions included in this handout. **(DO YOUR OWN WORK—THIS IS NOT A GROUP ASSIGNMENT!)**
2. Students must read A World Lit Only By Fire, by William Manchester (NOTE: it is advisable to read this book **after** the Palmer textbook readings). **A test based upon this text will be given during the first week of school.**
3. Become familiar with the political and geographic map of Europe (2016). Be able to identify the nations of Europe as well as geographic features such as major rivers, mountains, and bodies of water. **A test on this information will be given during the first week of school.**

STUDY TIPS

As you have probably already realized, the course will require a substantial amount of study time, and it is important to utilize this time effectively. Don't put off readings until the last moment, for the information presented is complex and requires time to synthesize and understand. Also, class discussions and lectures are often times based upon these readings, and the failure to develop a familiarity with discussion topics ahead of time will prevent you from making meaningful contributions in class. Find a quiet, well lit place to read, and **have a dictionary handy**. Begin by previewing introductions, headings and summaries. Taking reading notes should help you organize, understand, and memorize the material. **If you don't understand words, look them up in the dictionary**. Also, footnotes are listed for a reason--use them! Finally, **use your STUDY GUIDES regularly**. They offer a broad overview of topics that the texts develop in much more detail, and are invaluable in helping you to see the "big picture".

STUDY QUESTIONS: to be completed over the summer

A History of the Modern World

Chapter I--The Rise of Europe

Preface and a Few Words on Geography

1. What relationship may be noted between the study of geography and the study of history?
2. Explain the significance in European history of (a)the Mediterranean Sea (b)the European mountain systems (c)the European rivers (d)climate

section 1: Ancient Times

1. What justification is there for a "history of the modern world" to concentrate on the history of Europe?
2. For what major contributions are the Greeks remembered? The Romans?
3. Why was the coming of Christianity so important in the development of European civilization?

section 2: Early Middle Ages

1. What factors contributed to the decline and breakup of the Roman Empire?
2. Why could western Europe be said to be in the "dark ages" for a period of time after about A.D. 500? What role did the Christian church play at this time?
3. In what sense was Europe assuming some of its modern political form by 1000 A.D.?

section 3: High Middle Ages

1. What sweeping changes in the eleventh century enabled Europe to pull itself out of the Dark Ages?
2. How would you define feudalism? What were its origins?
3. Explain the role of commerce and of the towns in the High Middle Ages. What effects did each have on the rural countryside?
4. Describe the growth in the High Middle Ages of (a)royal power (b)royal councils (c)parliaments

section 4: High Middle Ages--the Church

1. What fundamental institutional changes took place in the church in the eleventh century before Gregory VII? Under Gregory VII? Under Innocent III?
2. Describe the motives and results of the European crusades to the Holy Land and elsewhere.
3. Describe the civilization of Europe by A.D. 1300. How might it be compared with the Arab world? The Chinese Empire of the same period?