

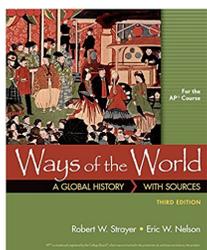
AP World History Welcome and Summer Assignment 2020

Overview of the course: Welcome to AP World History--a college level course offered at Klahowya Secondary School. As of June 2020, you were scheduled in this course for the Fall. I appreciate your willingness to challenge yourself with this AP class. Approx. 1/5 of the sophomore class (with a few students from other grades) is registered for AP World History. If you stick with it, you will discover that you will become a far greater student than you thought possible!

We begin our studies in 1200 CE and proceed to the present. As the focus of the course is truly global history, coverage of European history will not exceed 30% of the total materials covered. The purpose of the course is to develop greater understanding of six specific themes throughout history:

1. Humans and the environment.
2. Cultural development and interactions.
3. Governance.
4. Economic Systems.
5. Social Interactions and organizations.
6. Technology and innovation.

Course Commitment: Please understand this course is not an honors class; it is an actual freshman college course and so requires a higher level of individual commitment and accountability as well as intellectual maturity. You will be expected to **analytically read 10-15 pages a night:** not casually read, but write margin notes, reflect, and truly comprehend the content. The materials have been prepared for college students, so they take more time to consider. While one of the emphases in the course will be on building college level skills, in order to be successful, *you should have strong reading and writing skills upon entering the course as well as a consistent willingness to work hard.* In addition to the nightly reading, you will have weekly online homework associated with the textbook as well as weekly vocabulary tests.



Text: The text we will use is *Ways of the World* by Strayer. You do not need to purchase this book as you will have one checked out to you in the Fall. If you want to purchase one, look for ISBN-13: 978-1319022723. I would suggest a used one, as new ones will cost \$125 or more. Again, you do NOT need to purchase one.

Required summer assignments: 1) [Join Remind.com](#)

Remind.com--APWH 2020-2021@c663e8c(please join this)

2) [Join Google Classroom](#)

[Google Classroom--kd7mqv4](#) (please join this) [please join GC, print form (page 3), sign & send a digital copy via email to Mr. Kreifels (jeffk@ckschools.org) or bring it the first week of class in the fall

Extra credit summer assignment:

Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel* is a history book of BIG IDEAS. Large questions and themes guide the author's narrative. Since the AP World History course focuses on big ideas, concepts, themes, and trends of world history, this book is an appropriate entry into this way of thinking about history. The book is available in paperback at major bookstores and online, as well as at the public library. I highly recommend purchasing the book so that you are able to interact with it through reflective writing in the margins.

Read the chapters listed in the left column. Answer the guiding questions in the right column for each chapter. The questions will help you concentrate on and extrapolate the big ideas of the chapter.

Note: I know the book is large. Don't let that scare you off. Read the questions below first and try to find the answers in the assigned chapter. It isn't about reading every word, but rather about getting general ideas.

We will be discussing this book and these EXTRA CREDIT questions the first week of school & they are due on Friday 9/6/19.

Extra Credit--Why would I do a non-required assignment over the summer? 3 reasons! 1) You love history & it is fun to learn new things, 2) We start at 1200 CE, but much of what happens before this time period needs to be understood & this book covers most of that time, & 3) Extra credit in an AP course is really rare--in a tough class, you want to take advantage of these rare opportunities.

Each answer should be about a paragraph.

Prologue: Yali's Question	What question is Jared Diamond trying to answer? Why is this question important? What is Diamond's overall thesis (the answer to the question)?
Chapter 1: Up to the Starting Line	In the year 11,000 BC, could an archaeologist have predicted which human societies would develop guns, germs, and steel? Explain.
Chapter 2: A Natural Experiment of History	How are the Polynesian Islands "an experiment of history"?
Chapter 4: Farmer Power	How does Diamond challenge traditional assumptions about the transition from hunting-gathering to farming?
Chapter 6: To Farm or Not to Farm	What advantages did the Fertile Crescent possess that caused it to become the earliest site of the development of farming?
Chapter 9: Zebras, Unhappy Marriages, and the Anna Karenina Principle	What is the importance of the Anna Karenina principle to Diamond's overall thesis?
Chapter 10: Spacious Skies and Tilted Axes	According to Diamond, what effect did the orientation of the continents' axes have on the spread of crops, livestock, and inventions?
Chapter 11: Lethal Gift or Livestock	How does civilization lead to epidemics?
Chapter 12: Blueprints and Borrowed Letters	Why did only some peoples & not others develop writing? How many separate times did writing evolve in human history, under what circumstances, and for what uses?
Chapter 13: Necessity's Mother	How does Diamond attempt to debunk the common view that necessity is the mother of invention?
Epilogue: The Future of Human History as Science	How does Diamond explain the fact that it was Europe and not Southwest Asia, where agriculture and civilization originated, that ended up spreading its culture to the rest of the world? And how did China lose its lead?
Overall:	To what extent is Diamond successful in supporting his thesis? What particular chapters or components of his argument stronger than the others? What chapters or components of his argument are particularly problematic or weaker than the others? WHY?

**Some questions from W.W. Norton & Company Reading Group Guide, <http://www.wwnorton.com/rgguides/gunsgerms.htm>*

***this assignment was adapted from http://www.wpcp.org/home/students/media_summer/WHAP.Summer Assignment.09-10.Revised.doc, Ms. Benson*

Mr. Kreifels

jeffk@ckschools.org

--I will be checking this school email periodically over the summer. Contact me if you have questions about the class or summer extra credit assignment.

AP World History Commitment Form

Before you take this class consider the following and return this page with the appropriate signatures to Mr. Kreifels when school starts in the Fall 2020. Extra Credit if you take a picture of the signed form & email it to me on or before August 25th, 2020 at jeffk@ckschools.org

You **should** take this class if you:

- want to challenge yourself.
- like history.
- are able to read a textbook and learn from it on your own.
- want to earn college credit.
- want to have fun and work hard, gaining the satisfaction from a commitment to excellence.
- want to be prepared for the rigor of college classes.
- attend school almost every day.
- can work independently
- are consistent enough w/ your homework that you won't let yourself fall behind

You **should not** take this class if you:

- do the bare minimum to get by.
- don't like to read or reading is difficult for you.
- know your friend is in it.
- are not self-motivated.
- can't commit to working hard at school all year.
- get test anxiety.
- have a bad attendance record

1. It is expected the AP student will commit to at least one hour per day of homework, reading, and/or study during non-school hours per AP course.
2. It is expected the AP student will remain in the AP course all year and will take the AP exam in May.
3. Like similar college level courses, if you miss a day of an AP class, it is like missing multiple days in another course.
4. It is expected the AP student will not cheat or plagiarize on ANY work.

In order to have a realistic understanding of the workload I will encounter in AP courses, I have had a conversation about my work habits and academic goals with my parents.

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Print Student Name

Student Signature

Parent Signature