**AP World History**

**Book Analysis Project**

During the first semester you will choose a Non-Fiction World History book (other than another textbook). I have a list of acceptable titles below, however if there is one that you find that you are interested that is not on this list please bring it to me within the first two weeks of class for approval.

**Acceptable Books:**

* Blainey, Geoffrey. *Short History of the World*. Chicago: Ivan R Dee, Inc, 2002.
* Cook, Michael. *A Brief History of the Human Race*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2003.
* Davis, James C. *The Human Story: Our History, from the Stone Age to Today*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2005.
* Diamond, Jared M. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies*. New York: Norton, 2005.
* Durant, Will. *Heroes of History*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001.
* Hall, Timothy C. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to World History*. New York: Alpha, 2008.
* Haugen, Peter. *World History for Dummies*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Pub., 2009.
* McNeill, John Robert., and William H. McNeill. *Human Web: A Bird's-Eye View of World History*. London: W.W. Norton & Company Ltd, 2003.
* McNeill, William Hardy. *The Global Condition: Conquerors, Catastrophes, and Community*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton UP, 1992.
* Roberts, J. M. *A Short History of the World*. New York: Oxford UP, 1997.

These authors are excellent but each presents information differently. Some tend to be more scholarly while others take more of a narrative (story-telling) approach. I included the “Idiot’s Guide” and “For Dummies” books not to be insulting. They also contain a wealth of knowledge and are readily available. However, be aware that they are very similar in presentation to any AP review guide you may purchase for preparing for the AP Exam. I suggest you stretch yourself and try something different. Almost all of them are available from local libraries.

Upon completion of your reading, identify and support in **your own words** (I can do an internet search and see what other people have to say on my own!) what **you** believe to be the three most important events in shaping world history. Defend your belief in a well-developed one page essay for each event. Your defense should include facts that describe the event and a description of how that event changed the world.

The book and essay should be completed by the time we reach the final exam period before Winter Break. Here are some due dates to keep in mind:

**8/18** First Day of School…You Just Got this assignment start researching online, look at reviews, visit a bookstore/library and look for these.

**8/29** Book Selection Due…You’ve had two school weeks to select a book and now you’re going to inform me which book you’ve selected by bringing that book to class. Start Reading!

**10/17** End of the First Quarter…You’ve had about half½ a semester and you should be getting towards half-way finished with your book.

**11/26** Thanksgiving Break…If you’ve been procrastinating this would be a great five day weekend to get that reading done, in less than 1 month the assignment will be due. Between now and Finals you should be compiling your written response.

**12/17** Beginning of Final Exams…Essays should be complete, each of you will present on your three most important events in World History. You will turn in your 3 page essay and we will discuss the events during the finals period. (See rubric on opposite side)

**Essay Rubric:**

Event #1: First Page

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Factor/Score | 5 Points | 4 Points | 2-3 Points | 0-1 Point |
| Intro/Thesis | Student has clearly identified an event that they believed was central to world history. Thesis statement also sets up the reader with an understanding of what information will be contained in the essay (The Argument) | Student identifies a concept/event that they believe is central to world history. The Thesis statement is clear on what the event is and lists some reasons why. Sets up some but not all expectations for the reader. | Student identifies a concept/event that they believe is central to world history. However their thesis statement is unclear as to what the reader can expect from the paper. Does not provide an idea of what the essay will be about other than the event. | Student either doesn’t choose a specific event/concept or uses more than one in the first essay. Reader is left confused as to what the Student’s Thesis is or what the essay is truly about. |
| Body (x3) | Student clearly follows the arc of their thesis throughout their essay using relevant facts, examples, and information from their chosen book, the textbook, and student research (properly cited).  No grammatical/spelling errors, obvious care and effort shown by student. | Student clearly explains why this event is important with examples, facts, and information from their chosen book, the textbook, and student research (properly cited).  Few if any grammatical/spelling errors, obvious care and effort shown by student. | Student provides basic details within their essay that support their idea of why this event is central to world history.  Information given is by and large correct. Student may lack some citation.  Some grammatical and spelling errors throughout, but effort was made. | Student provides little to no supporting details within their essay. Information given is incorrect or doesn’t support the Thesis written by the Student. No citations given.  Multiple grammatical and spelling errors throughout the essay. Lack of care/effort in student’s writing. |
| Conclusion | Student gives a concise summary of essay: event and explanation. Explains how this event shaped the world today, and teaches the reader something that they didn’t know previously. | Student sums up argument well and explains how this event shaped the world today. | Student sums up their argument but doesn’t leave the reader with a clear understanding of the importance of this event. | Student either doesn’t include a conclusion or doesn’t accurately sum up their essay. Reader has no idea why the selected event was so important. |

Total for Page 1: /25 Points

Page 2 (Event 2):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Factor/Score | 5 Points | 4 Points | 2-3 Points | 0-1 Point |
| Intro/Thesis |  |  |  |  |
| Body (x3) |  |  |  |  |
| Conclusion |  |  |  |  |

Total for Page 2: /25 Points

Page 3 (Event 3):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Factor/Score | 5 Points | 4 Points | 2-3 Points | 0-1 Point |
| Intro/Thesis |  |  |  |  |
| Body (x3) |  |  |  |  |
| Conclusion |  |  |  |  |

Total for Page 3: /25 Points

Total for Whole Essay: /75 Points