

AP World History Summer Assignment Directions and Parent Letter

May 1, 2017

Dear Students and Parents:

I am excited that you have decided to accept the challenge of taking an Advanced Placement class, which is a university-level course taught in high school. You will strengthen your academic, intellectual, observation, and discussion skills in this course. Additionally, you will become a stronger writer from this course. I am excited to teach this class again next year and I am dedicated to providing a challenging and rewarding academic experience. I began this course at Lemon Bay High School in 2002. Intrinsic in any AP course is an increased workload and the time review outside of class. Students should expect to spend about **one hour each day**, including weekends, on the work in the course, nearly all of which is reading and note taking.

This course is a web-enhanced course and consequently students will use e-mail, the course website, and various other computer programs such as Google documents to enhance their learning opportunities. This creates a very rich academic environment where students will take tests online, participate in online discussions, and have the capacity to communicate and learn outside of the traditional class time. The course web site is located at www.schoology.com and will be fully available after August 1st however, the summer assignment is already loaded on the site, and there is other information that is being placed on it regularly, including the updated course syllabus, as well as information to help you with you summer assignment. Over the summer, I will begin to add assignments for each of our course units. In order to enroll, students should use the following access code to register **Q9B5B-5P3TK**. Once they register, they should be able to see the AP World History files. If a parent wishes to be able to see their student's work and progress, I can furnish the parent with a separate login. Please email me if you wish to have a login.

Part of entering an AP class is an assumption of a certain level of background knowledge and skills. With this in mind, the course requires the completion of a summer assignment. Your summer assignment is **the reading of the first unit in the course text (Chapters 1-6)**, and taking good notes on your reading. You must complete both parts of the assignment. Both parts are due on the first day of classes.

Additionally, I want to warn each of you that the summer assignment is designed to preclude students from leaving the assignment until the last few days of summer break. So, begin now and do a little each day. I expect to see quality work turned in on this project.

During my summer break, I am always available to help students via email. Students, and parents, may feel free to email me at: cmramsay@comcast.net. Regardless of where I am in the summer, I always have access to this email. I will usually respond within 24 hours of receiving your email. If you email, please be specific about whom you are and what exactly you need help with. I am looking forward to meeting you in August!

Sincerely,

Colin M. Ramsay

AP World History
Summer Assignment: SY 2017-2018
Mr. Ramsay, Room 04-327
Summer contact: cmramsay@comcast.net

Prior to leaving for the summer break, you should have had the opportunity to check out the course textbook, The Earth and Its Peoples by Bulliet, et al. If you did not, you can find the text on the class [Schoology](#) site under the “Student Resources” folder. - Read the fifth edition of the text. You are to read, and take notes on the first six (6) chapters of the text. You will need a five-subject notebook for this course, and you should take reading notes on this reading assignment in one you have purchased for this course.

1. Read chapters 1-6 in the text, including the sections titled “Environment and Technology”, “Diversity and Dominance”, and “Material Culture” as they are included in each chapter.
2. As you read, take 2-column reading notes. – You can find information on this style of note taking on the [Schoology](#) site under “Summer Assignment”. Notes may be done in pencil or pen.
3. Read one chapter sub-heading at a time, and then take notes on that sub-heading. The sub-headings are the light green text in your book. You should read and take notes for no more than 20-30 minutes at a time. Break the reading and note taking up into small bites and absorb the ideas.
4. Your notes should include the vocabulary and identifications from each chapter, as well as the major ideas contained in the text. You may use the left-hand margin for column one of your notes and then divide each page equally to give you more room to write.
5. After you have read and digested the information in each chapter, log in to Schoology and take the required reading quiz for the chapter. – You have one opportunity at each quiz, and each quiz is timed. Be sure to review your notes before you take the quiz.
6. Bring your **notebooks** to class on day one of school. You must have your notes completed in order begin our class work.