

Honors World History
Summer Assignment Directions and Parent Letter

April 28, 2018

Dear Students and Parents:

I am excited that you have decided to accept the challenge of taking an honors level class, which is a rigorous course taught in our high school. In this course, you will strengthen your academic, intellectual, observation, and discussion skills. 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. Intrinsic in any honors-level course is an increased workload and the time review outside of class. Students should expect to spend about thirty to forty-five minutes each day, including some weekends, on the work in the course, much of which is reading and note-taking, but will include projects, papers and deeper learning experiences.

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 their reading quizzes 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 4 however, the summer assignment is already loaded on the site, and there is other information that I will upload regularly, including an updated course syllabus. 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 **ZC4SX – 8SZF4**. Once they register, they should be able to see the Honors World History files. When you register, please use **your real first and last name** (no nicknames). I strongly encourage you to use your Charlotte County Public Schools “88 number” as your password for Schoology!

Part of entering an honors level 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 has three parts: a book study with your notes, a series of questions that you need to complete based on the book, plus an article to read, and respond to in an essay. You must complete all three parts of the assignment. Please review the book and the article before classes begin and be prepared for a lively class discussion on the book and the article during the first week of school. Additionally, this book is going to be used throughout the year in our class work.** I want to warn each of you that the summer assignment is designed to preclude students 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. You will finish with plenty of summer break remaining.

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
Honors World History

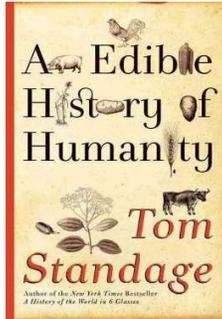
TURN OVER



Honors World History
Summer Assignment: SY 2018-2019

This assignment must be completed and turned in on the first day of classes. Failure to complete the assignment will result in a failing mark for the assignments.

1. Purchase, and read An Edible History of Humanity by Tom Standage. Available in hardcover, paperback, and Kindle. I have seen these for \$.25 on Amazon used books. You may read any of the above versions.



2. As you read the preface, introduction and each chapter, you are to keep a 2-column notes on lined paper, but **not** in the notebook that you will use for class. Your notes should be written in blue/black ink and not in pencil. Please review the PowerPoint that is located on Schoology in the “Summer Assignment” tab for information on two-column note-taking. Refer back to this PowerPoint on [Schoology](#), if you need help with the notes. Make sure you follow directions.
3. Log on to Schoology. Enter the Honors World History course. In the “Summer Assignment” tab, locate the guided reading questions for the book.
4. Once you have finished reading the book, and taking your reading notes, you are to go back and answer the questions for the book study on lined paper and in blue/black ink only. **- I will not accept work done on a word processor, or work done in pencil.** The questions are posted in the Summer Assignment folder on www.schoology.com. The questions for the book study, and your notes, are due on the first day of classes. Late work will not be accepted. You have plenty of time to complete this work, if you do not procrastinate.
5. After you have completed 1-4 above, please log on to Schoology and locate the “Summer Assignment” folder on the course page. Download the article titled “The Worst Mistake in Human History” by Jared Diamond. You may print the article if you wish to, but it is not required to do so. Read the article. Once you have finished, you are to write an essay of 4-5 pages on lined paper, in blue/black ink. **- I will not accept work done on a word processor, or work done in pencil.** In your essay, you should have a **thesis** and **supporting evidence** in which you answer and discuss the questions: Was the development of agriculture and the domestication of animals a mistake in human history? Why? Was life better for hunter-gatherers or have the effects of the Neolithic Revolution positively impacted humanity? Be sure to debate or agree with specific evidence and statistics cited by Diamond. A good essay will engage Diamond’s arguments. **This essay is due on the first day of classes with you notes and your guided reading questions from #4 above.** Be prepared to use the information in the book and the article in a class discussion during the first few days of classes.

SCORING:

1. Guided Reading Questions = 1 test grade
2. Article essay = 2 essay grades
3. Class discussion = 1 skills grade