

Memo to AP European History Students

From: Clay Honeycutt

Date: May 10, 2019

RE: Summer Assignment

First I would like to welcome you to Advanced Placement European History and say that I am extremely excited that we will have the opportunity to explore the development of modern Europe during the 2019-2020 academic year. I believe that this is a fascinating course that will challenge you to develop your historical reasoning and writing skills. Since this is an AP course there will be the potential to earn college credit. I will do everything in my power to prepare you for the AP test in May and will always be available via e-mail if you have a question.

ASSIGNMENT

1. You need to read the book Peasant Fires: The Drummer of Niklashausen by Richard Wunderli. (ISBN 978-0-253-20751-7) It can be found in most libraries and is available on Amazon as well. I suggest that you get your own personal copy if at all possible. As you read you should be reading actively. This means you should take notes in the margins, highlight, underline, and write down any questions that come to you as you read. (This does not need to be done to the same extent as you would do in your English class. You do not need to make the pages bleed but I want to see evidence that you have actively read.) If you do not have your own personal copy then you should take notes on a separate sheet of paper. Please bring your copy on the first day of school as we will discuss it and so I can examine it for signs of active reading.
2. You need to examine the role of the Church in 15th century Germany as well as the place of the common man. You are to write a one to two page paper (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) that will be turned in on the first day of class. Please include a works cited page in MLA format if you use any outside information. **(NO Wikipedia)** In your paper please explain how the Church has a position of power in this society and explain why the common man does not. How is this relationship present in the book? Why is the Church so powerful? Why did the Hans Belem challenge the Church? Etc.

This essay is not a book report. I am asking that you look at the evidence presented and evaluate its importance. This should be your own work. You may quote from Wunderli or another source as long as they are properly quoted with in text citations (i.e. (Smith 46)) or footnote citations. When you use these you are informing me that you have quoted this statement from page 46 of the book written by Smith. Remember, I am more interested in your thoughts than ideas that you have taken from others. As long as you can justify your beliefs logically, they are not wrong.

Your grade for this assignment will be based on two things. First will be your argument/thesis and the evidence/logic you use to support it. Secondly, I will be looking at the quality of your writing including grammar, spelling, and organization.

This assignment will help you to have a little bit of background information on some of the first topics we will discuss in class, as well as give me an idea of the quality of your writing. Please work on this assignment throughout the summer. Do not wait until the day before schools starts to begin. If you need to get in touch with me at any point over the summer, my e-mail address is choneycutt@graystoneday.org.