

google classroom:	AP Euro period 1 odd day	AP Euro period 4 even day
class code:	gav3cl2	succrvr

Fairfield Warde High School

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June 9, 2021

Aspiring AP Euro History Student,

As we prepare for what I hope will be a more normal next school year, I'm excited to present you with an introduction to a course that will be both relevant and engaging. While the class will certainly prepare you for the AP exam by providing a solid foundation in the political, religious, economic, and intellectual movements central to the modern era, we will explore the moral implications of these movements, as well. In particular, next year we will focus on the importance of resurgent "fascism" paralleling the cultural Western tradition (and subsequently, our own lives and current events). The course curriculum, then, is intended to have both a practicable impact (earned college credit through the AP and ECE* programs) and a personally self-definitional and philosophical one, as well. These worthy ends, however, will ONLY be served if you are committed to doing the work. As a result, and as your content responsibility covers the historical legacy of an entire continent over six centuries, it is essential that you begin preparation of the material this summer. Our first unit examines the Renaissance and the concept of "Rebirth." This concept, and the foundational values it suggests, will provide a context focus for the rest of the course.

Summer Tasks: (note: all readings will be posted to section specific google classroom pages!)

1. **Read in McKay's A History of Western Society chapters 11 and 12, and in Sherman's Western Civilization essays by Petrarch, de Pizan, Machiavelli, Castiglione, Burckhardt, and Burke on pp. 5-9, 15-17.** These source readings will be the basis for discussion within a compressed Renaissance unit the first weeks of the course. You have a unit test on both chapters tentatively set for September 15th. Notes on these readings is not required, but is recommended ("split page" reading notes are especially suggested).

2. **Read Timothy Snyder's "On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century".** In 2 typed pages (1.5 spacing, 10 point arial font, one inch margins), respond to the following:

- identify a current event that implies potential for a cultural/political shift towards neo-fascism, and
- use at least three of Snyder's "lessons" to both describe the event and suggest a remedy for it, then
- briefly assess/critique Snyder's thesis and argument

Your current event must be truly "current" to this summer (i.e. relevant **now**). This will be submitted to google classroom by August 27th.

∞. Supplemental reading: you are encouraged, but not required, to read **World War Z**, by Max Brooks

(The Snyder text is available at Amazon for \$5.24, but as stated will be posted to your section specific google classroom pages, as well.)

I will be monitoring school email if you have questions, comments, concerns ... Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you in class next August – until then, have a great summer.

Sincerely,

MrOB
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