

Summer Reading 2023-24

1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created by Charles Mann

Most students will have some knowledge of events that have occurred throughout the world before our own time. Some of their knowledge will have come from Hollywood, and some from previous classes, books, etc. The purpose of the summer reading is to give beginning AP World History students a basic overview of world history, and to acquaint them with the basic themes of AP World History. The bedrock of historical inquiry and examining change over time is the 5 AP themes. The AP World history course will focus on the following five main themes:

1. Development and transformation of social structures (gender roles and relations, family and kinship, racial and ethnic constructs, social and economic classes).
2. Political – state building, expansion and conflict (political structures and forms of governance, empires, nations and nationalism, revolts and revolutions, regional, trans-regional and global structures and organizations).
3. Cultural – development and interactions of cultures (religions, belief systems, philosophy and ideologies, science and technology, the arts and architecture).
4. Interactions between humans and the environment (demography and disease, migration, patterns of settlement, technology).
5. Economic – creation, expansion and interaction of economic system (agriculture and pastoral production, trade and commerce, labor systems, industrialization, capitalism and socialism).

Over the summer, students are to read, in its entirety 1493. While reading the book, make notes identifying the main theses (arguments) of 1493.

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the book thoroughly. The first week back you will be given a 55 question multiple choice test over the book, whichever one you chose. This is the same length as the AP test. If you have read the book the test will be very easy. The questions will be a mixture of book content and how that content relates to the 5 AP themes.