May 21, 2026

Aspiring AP European History Student,

Below is a summer assignment meant as an introduction to a course we hope you will find in equal measures challenging, relevant, and engaging. Be aware, however, that while the class will certainly prepare you for the AP exam by providing a solid foundation in the political, religious, economic, and intellectual movements that define Europe's modern era, it will explore the moral/ethical implications of these movements, as well. In particular, we will focus on the importance of a resurgent "fascism" currently having an impact on the Western cultural tradition and in our own lives. The course curriculum, subsequently, is intended to have both a practicable impact (earned AP and ECE credit) and a self-definitional, philosophical one.

With these ends in mind, we urge you to seriously consider the level of dedicated effort expected before committing to a course of study in this class. AP Euro is an **elective** that **works** only if students choosing to take the class are committed to doing the **work**. Put simply - don't take this class for the wrong reasons!

All that aside, if the study of history as a moral/ethical imperative intrigues you, we're pleased to invite you to complete the AP Euro summer prep assignment for 2026/277.

To be completed by Friday of the first week of class:

1. **Read Timothy Snyder's "*On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*"**, available at local libraries and bookstores. An assignment will be posted to GC before start of summer vacation that will require you provide responses to the following tasks:
   - a description of **ONE** of Snyder's "lessons" as most essential as a response/remedy to rising global neo-fascism,
   - an indication of this lesson's importance by considering its application to a current event (**current** to this summer!) that indicates evidence of rising global neo-fascism,
   - briefly assess/critiqued Snyder's overall thesis and argument

   NOTE: this brief reflection will provide basis for a debate/discussion of seminal conceptual course definitions ("engine parts") during the 2nd week of class

To be completed by Friday of the second week of class:

2. **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 are prep for a compressed Renaissance unit during the first weeks of the course. A summative test on both chapters is tentatively set for the 3rd week of class. Notes on these readings are recommended, but not required (consider "split page" reading notes.)

We look forward to seeing you next August, until then, have a great summer.

Welcome aboard,

Ms. Radovic/Mr. OB 🖐🏽
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