

# Advanced Placement European History: 1450-Present

Mrs. Polzinetti

2010-2011

AP European History is a challenging and fast-paced class focused on the political, economic, religious, social, intellectual and artistic aspects of life in Europe from the end of the Middle Ages to the present. The College Board considers this class as college level and high performance on the exam the first full week of May can earn you college credit.

The summer assignment will establish a common ground for the beginning of the first semester. A working knowledge of Europe's geography will also be crucial in our study of cultural and political movements, battles and even economic trends. Therefore, the summer assignment will focus on Europe's physical and political geography as well as the early periods our course will cover, namely the late Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Religious Wars and Exploration. Please take this seriously; use this opportunity to gain a solid background for the course and to ignite your interest. Your enthusiasm will help make this course invigorating and engaging.

**If you decide not to complete the summer assignment, please make arrangements to drop the class when you return in August.**

**Contact me with questions:**

[apolzinetti@wayne-local.com](mailto:apolzinetti@wayne-local.com) or via Moodle (see below).

In the fall, I will be asking you to purchase a study book. There are different ones available from various publishers; this year's students highly recommend the Cliff's Notes and the Research & Education Association (REA) test prep books. The cost of the official AP exam will be included in your school fees.

This course tends to be more difficult during the first semester because much of the information covered is new or something you haven't studied in several years. Once we hit the Industrial Revolution, the course will seem more like review. If you have the chance and the inclination to do so, brush up on the Scientific Revolution, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution and Napoleon on your own. There may be some good documentaries on the History or Discover channel. There is also increasingly more historical fiction available; just remember that it is historical *fiction*. ☺

It's also a great idea to follow current events – national and international – over the summer. In this way, names of people and places become familiar to you. Plus, being informed just makes you a better citizen!

You may also find this assignment (plus other resources) on Moodle

– go to [www.wayne-local.net/moodle](http://www.wayne-local.net/moodle)  
and use your school login and password to get in.

Then go to the AP European page.

# The Assignment

There are two parts to your summer assignment, equaling 80 points.

## I. Reading

1. Read Chapters 13-15 in the text book, *A History of Western Society Since 1300* by John P. McKay, Bennett D. Hill and John Buckler.
2. At the beginning of each chapter are questions the chapter should help you answer. I will post these to Moodle in a forum; pick one from each chapter and answer it. (10 points each)
3. Your responses to Moodle should be **in your own words**, showing that you read and understood the text. Include specific details supporting your responses. Due August 18 by midnight.
4. If you cannot access Moodle, write at least a half a page responding to one question per chapter. Mail or email these to me by August 18.

## AND

## II. Geography

1. There will be a **map test** on the first day of class. Be able to locate the following:

### Salt Water

Adriatic Sea  
Aegean Sea  
Baltic Sea  
Black Sea  
English Channel  
Mediterranean Sea  
North Sea  
Norwegian Sea

### Rivers

Danube  
Loire  
Rhine  
Thames

### Mountains

Alps  
Pyrenees

### Islands

Corsica  
Crete  
Cyprus  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Sardinia  
Sicily

### Peninsulas

### Cities

Balkan	Amsterdam	Florence	Manchester	Oslo	Venice
Denmark	Augsburg	Helsinki	Moscow	Rome	Vienna
Iberian	Berlin	Istanbul	Naples	St. Petersburg	Warsaw
Italian	Budapest	London	Paris	Sarajevo	
	Dublin	Madrid	Prague	Stockholm	

2. Consider how you will answer the following question on the quiz:

Why is important to know geography when studying history?

**I will expect specific examples, not simply a general statement. As you are reading Chapters 13-15, note occasions when geography was important culturally, economically or politically.**

