Welcome to AP European History!

AP Euro is a fascinating, yet challenging subject. Over the course of the next school year, you will learn about a variety of topics and gain a better understanding of European History. The course is divided roughly into four time periods, spanning the course of two semesters: 1) 1450-1648 2) 1648-1815 3) 1815-1914 and 4) 1914 to the present. We will be examining several thematic and conceptual elements that the course revolves around.

You should enter this course with high expectations for yourself and expect to be challenged. Be aware that the course is not an easy one. I have extremely high expectations for my AP class. You can expect nightly readings from the college textbook and supplementary texts, document source analysis, and numerous written assignments such as essays. I cannot stress enough how important writing is in this class as well as reading. Quizzes will occur to ensure you are completing assignments.

As my goal is for you to do well enough on the AP Euro exam in May to gain college credit, it is important for us to get started on the content. Below, you will find instructions for your summer assignment. It will give you an introduction to the material we will be covering and hopefully spike your interest in the subject. While the AP Euro exam does not test students on the Middle Ages, it is important to understand this era to comprehend later events, particularly the Renaissance. This will also give you a feel for the difficulty of the course. Assignment due dates are next to each item.

Assignment #1: AP European Overview (Read by Monday, August 19th)

Go to the following links below and read over the course details and exam description. This will give you a general feel for the class structure.

https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-european-history/course-details

https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-european-history/about-the-exam

Assignment #2: Self-study of Chapter 9 (Test on Thursday, August 22nd)

1. Obtain a copy of chapter 9 of the course textbook from me by the end of the school year.
2. Read and study Chapter 9 of the text.
3. Focus on the following elements that made the Late Middle Ages “unstable”:
   • Plagues
   • Wars
   • Decline of ecclesiastical power due to:
     i. Stronger monarchs
     ii. Corruption
4. You will have a test on chapter 9 Thursday, August 22nd. The test format will mainly be multiple choice with the possibility of some short answer and fill-in-the-blank. I am just checking for comprehension of the material.
5. There is a guide covering study tips at the summer assignment section of my class website (linked at the bottom of each page)
Assignment #3. Due July 20th by 11:59 PM via email (mcwalters@k12.wv.us)
Black Death Paper (50 points for essay)

1. Research the Bubonic Plague/Black Death. Acceptable sources include:
   • Scholarly internet sites (not Wikipedia)
   • Course textbook
   • Books (The Black Death by P. Ziegler is a good source if you can find a library copy).

2. Write an essay/paper on the following prompt:
   • “Evaluate the most important impacts of the Bubonic Plague (Black Death) on European culture and society”

3. Email me your essay by 11:59 PM on July 20 (email is listed at the end of this handout and above). This will give me an idea of writing skills and give you early feedback on what to improve going into the course. Ensure I respond to you. If I do not reply to you within 24 hours, I did not receive your email.

4. Important note: If you are out of the country or have other issues that prevent you from submitting this on July 20, please let me know. I can be flexible with this and give an extension if you have a valid issue.

5. The essay basically takes the place of an essay portion for the test on chapter 9. This is meant to provide you with an early understanding of the essay expectations for the class without having to go through a timed in-class essay right off the bat.

Essay Format (Important):

Please follow the below format when writing your essay:
1. Typed, 12 font, Times New Roman, double spaced, and default margins.
2. Develop and organize the thesis of your argument or presentation. Ideally, your thesis should have three major points. For example, if the prompt was “Analyze the causes for the collapse of civilizations”, a basic thesis would be “Civilizations primarily fall due to invasions, environmental catastrophe, and social unrest.” Essays without a proper thesis will automatically drop one letter grade. If you need assistance developing a thesis, please let me know and I will help you.
3. Have proper essay structure (introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion). Ensure you have topic sentences. If you need help, email me. An essay guide is available on the summer assignment page of my class website (link at the bottom of each page).
4. Be as analytical as possible. Delve deeper into your response and avoid writing a narrative.
5. Essay should be a minimum 3 pages double spaced (This does not mean two and a half. Three whole pages).
6. Cite your sources. If you paraphrase or quote something, you must cite it. I would prefer that you use the MLA style or Chicago/Turabian style. See me or email me if you need assistance.
   • Textbook/packet citation:
   • Shepherd University has good guides for these at the link below:
     http://libguides.shepherd.edu/citationguide
Assignment #4. Due Monday, August 19th
SAQ (Short Answer Question) Practice (15 points)

1. Read *Ecclesiastical Breakdown and Revival: the Late Medieval Church* in the textbook (pgs. 270-271).

2. Answer the questions below:
   a. Identify one feature of the Late Middle Ages that is reflected in these two sources.
   b. Explain one difference between the two sources.
   c. Explain one factor that may have influenced the authors’ views.

3. Short Answer Question Guidelines:
   1. Type your response. Use 12 font, Times New Roman, and default margins. It does not need to be double spaced for a short answer question response.
   2. Fully explain your answer. I do not need you to write a massive amount, but it should be more than just a single sentence.
   3. Think of ACE for short answer question responses in this class:
      i. Answer the question
      ii. Cite evidence to support your answer
      iii. Explain your answer

Optional:

I would recommend purchasing an AP review book now. While the exam is obviously a while away, a review book would be a good supplement to anything covered in class. It also doesn’t hurt to start reviewing early as it is unwise to attempt to cram for an AP exam. Be sure you get one that has the newest exam format in it. Any review book from 2015 and earlier will not have the new exam format.

If you have questions about the assignments or the course in general, feel free to email me at the following address: mcwalters@k12.wv.us I will be checking it regularly throughout the summer. You can also visit my website (listed at the bottom of each page). I will be posting syllabus material toward the start of the school year and will be posting helpful resources throughout the summer. I will also post assignments, information updates, and weekly schedules throughout the year on the site.

I am looking forward to a great year. Have a great summer!

-Mr. Walters