

Advanced Placement European History Summer Assignment

WELCOME to AP EUROPEAN HISTORY! In this course we seek to understand the origins of the social institutions, political philosophies, religious beliefs and lifestyle realities of contemporary Europe and (by extension) of the United States. The course itself examines in detail the time period of the Renaissance through the fall of Communism, but to understand the events of the 14th century it is important to have a general conceptual framework of the previous 13 centuries. Your summer readings will highlight the background to European life up to the Renaissance.

As preparation for the course, please do some research on your own addressing the subjects listed below. You will find your textbook very helpful, but encyclopedias, research magazines and scholarly internet sites will also provide good information. In your text, you should read through and be familiar with pages 134 through 324, the decline of the Roman Republic up to the Renaissance.

Type out your response to each of the prompts, and be prepared to submit all three essays on the SECOND day of school in the fall. There is no set length for any of the essays, but a thorough response will probably require 2 to 3 pages for each topic. Please include internal source citations and the bibliographic information using the Chicago Style for all the resources that you consult in the preparation of each essay. **It is expected that you will take this assignment seriously, since it is your preparation for the course. The essays will count as a major part of your 1st marking period grade.**

- I. What are the major contributions of the Roman Empire to the Modern World? As a minimum, make specific mention of the religious, linguistic and philosophical impact of this ancient empire.

- II. Discuss the role of the Roman Catholic Church in terms of its impact on Medieval society. Address the shaping of philosophy, education, politics and humanitarian endeavors. Include a brief explanation of the organizational structure of the church touching on all the major positions of the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

- III. The feudal system which arose in the power vacuum after the Roman Empire collapsed eventually led to the formation of the modern nation-state (a country). In a few brief paragraphs for each nation, give an overview of the major historical stages of each in time from 450 AD until 1485 AD. Cover the details of major people and events, and address the major religious and political developments of each of these regions as they moved from a divided feudal system to the modern nation-state:

Spain
France
England

- IV. Extra Credit: How did we get our current method of keeping time? Discuss the development of the Calendar, the months, the weekdays and the concept of “hours.”

STOP BY THE HIGH SCHOOL TO PICK UP YOUR TEXTBOOK