

Fairfield Warde High School

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2015/16 AP Modern European History Student,

The school year is finally coming to an end, and with summer looming it's time to begin thinking of next semester's studies in European History and the importance of the modern era. If past experience is any indication, this class will present a challenge that promises to be both interesting and enjoyable – I very much look forward to our studies together.

In preparation for discussions beginning in September, you will need to read one book and write one essay. Your written analysis should be at least two and no more than four pages long (1.5 spaced, size 10 Ariel font), and must be submitted to www.turnitin.com no later than Monday, August 24th (see directions on the reverse), with a self-evaluated copy given to me no later than Friday, August 28th. Please consider this as a first opportunity to display your academic sophistication by emphasizing synthetic/analytical abilities over those needed to merely write a “book report”.

- A World Lit Only by Fire: The Medieval World and the Renaissance – Portrait of an Age by William Manchester. (the school has copies to issue, but they are also available through the public library, overdrive.com, or for as little as \$4.00 at Amazon.com) In this controversial introduction to the modern era, Manchester argues that certain historical characters helped to “shatter” a medieval era that had been “shackled in ignorance, disciplined by fear, and sheathed in superstition.” In your essay you should clearly
 1. identify/describe the importance of the Church to the earliest stages of Modern European History
 2. identify/describe the three characters of this time period other than Magellan that might be considered most responsible for *shattering* of the Medieval (what “modern” values did they embrace?), and
 3. critique Manchester's contention that Magellan was the most significant of this *modern* group.

A second text is recommended only and not required:

- World War Z by Max Brooks. for as little as (\$4.63 at Amazon.com) Yes: this is a book about a zombie pandemic (not, perhaps, what you'd expect for summer reading in an AP history class), but its premise is to answer a question important to definition of the human social condition: “*in responding to a crisis, which should take precedence: group security or individual rights?*” An appropriate response to this question is necessary in defining the Western conception of morality and will act as touchstone and reoccurring theme in our studies in APMEH (our first discussions will be about this).

See me with questions/comments/concerns regarding the above before June 17th (I will be checking school e-mail over the summer, but only sporadically). Until then, be certain to have a wonderfully historical summer vacation and I look forward to seeing you in class next September!

Sincerely,

Stephen O'Brien

www.turnitin.com
Directions for Students

Creating a user profile

1. Go to <http://www.turnitin.com>.
2. Click on **New User? Start here**
3. Click on **Create a User Profile** (below the log in box in the upper right hand corner).
4. Fill in any information the Wizard requests, selecting Student as **Type of User**.

Enrolling in your class

1. Click **Start Class Enrollment Wizard**.
2. Enter the **Class ID** number and **Password** below:

Class Name:	APMEH summer reading essay
Class ID:	10050027
Password:	veritatem

Submitting a paper

(or see http://www.turnitin.com/static/training_support/tii_student_quickstart.html)

1. Log in to *Turnitin.com* using your e-mail address and personal password.
2. Click on your class to open your class portfolio.
3. Click on the **Submit** button next to the name of your assignment.
4. **File upload** submission method:
 - a. Type your first name, last name, and paper title.
 - b. Click the **Browse** button and navigate to your file.
5. **Copy & paste** submission method:
 - a. Open your paper and copy the text.
 - b. Copy the text into the **Copy & paste** text box.
6. Click the **Submit** button. If the correct paper was chosen, click **yes, submit**.
7. You will see a digital receipt for the paper (a copy will also be e-mailed to you)
8. Click the **Class Portfolio** button to continue, or click the **logout** button at the top.