

AP European History Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP European History! Throughout the course we will be studying the events, individuals, ideas, and artistic forms which shaped modern global society!

While the course does not actually begin until the 1400s, there are key elements which are necessary to understand before you are able to grasp the full extent of the Renaissance. Here is the summer reading which should provide key framework.

- Read the attached article, "The Renaissance and the Rediscovery of Plato and the Greeks" by Torbjorn Jerlerup from the Schiller Institute. A digital copy can also be found at http://schillerinstitute.org/fidelio_archive/2003/fidv12n03-2003Fa/fidv12n03-2003Fa_036-the_renaissance_and_the_rediscov.pdf
- After reading the article, type a 4-5 paragraph essay **describing how rediscovering Greek works, especially Plato, helped lead to a rebirth of culture, art, and ideas in Europe.** (1 intro paragraph, 2-3 body paragraphs, and 1 concluding paragraph.) The paper should be titled, have your name, be 12 pt font, Times New Roman, and double spaced. Paragraphs should be 6-8 sentences apiece (1 intro sentence, 4-6 body, 1 concluding).
- Get a copy of Plato's *Republic*. The work is in the public domain and can easily be found for free or cheap online. (\$1 on the apple app store, \$1 on amazon for a print copy, free at internet classics archives, etc. If you have difficulty obtaining a copy, you may contact me to arrange checking out a copy of a kindle with *The Republic* downloaded to it.)
- **Before reading, understand that this book is a dialogue. This is meant to be a fictional discussion between Plato's teacher Socrates and other philosophers in Greece. When you read the work, try and figure out who is talking to who. Don't read it like a normal book or you will just be confused. Instead, figure out what Socrates is saying, what others are saying back to him, then how Socrates responds, and so on and so forth. Read carefully. If you do not understand, slow down and re-read.**
- Read books 1-2, 4, 6, and 7. (He calls them books, but they really are chapters.) After reading each book, answer the prompts below using the same typed format as the earlier article response essay. Label each response with the appropriate book number. Each prompt has a required paragraph count listed at the end for the total response to the book.

- Book 1 - How does Thrasymachus define "justice"? Do you believe he would believe in absolute truths? Why or why not? How does Socrates disprove Thrasymachus? (2-3 paragraphs)
- Book 2 - How does Socrates tie justice to the city? Why do cities exist? Do you agree with Socrates's rationale? Why or why not? (1-2 paragraphs)
- Book 4 - How does Socrates define justice? How are the virtues of courage, wisdom, temperance (moderation), and justice present in the city? Basing your opinion on *The Republic*, why do you believe these qualities are necessary within any society? (2-3 paragraphs)
- Book 6 - The sun is not sight itself. However, what relation does the sun have to sight? How does this relationship correspond to truth and the soul? (1-2 paragraphs)
- Book 7 Part 1- Summarize the allegory of the cave. How does mankind perceive the world in the cave? How does this perception change when mankind leaves the cave? How does this change in perception relate to truth? How does mankind react to this change in perception? (2-3 paragraphs)
- Book 7 Part 2 - Plato describes two different worlds - the visible and the intellectual/intelligible. Which of these two worlds can mankind directly experience? How? Which of these two worlds holds truth? (1 paragraph)
- Book 7 Part 3 - Based on your reading, does Plato believe in absolute truth? Does he believe it is possible for mankind to know anything? Is what we are able to perceive the fullness of truth? Provide evidence from the text to support all your responses. (2-3 paragraphs)
- Print a copy of your article reflections and *Republic* reflections. **This is due the first day of class. Late work will not be accepted.**
- On the first day of class you will receive instructions on submitting your reflections to the academic honesty website, turnitin.com. Your first homework assignment in August will be uploading the work to the website.

Please contact me with any concerns over the summer break. I will check my email about once or twice a week. My address is ndelaet@phoenixchristian.org

Looking forward to a great school year!

Mr. Nathan de Laet