

**AP World History**  
**Mr. Richman**

**2008-2009**

**Overview:**

AP World History is based on a multi-perspective global approach; students should have considerable analytical, research, and self-disciplinary skills. Students will be reading, discussing, and analyzing secondary and primary sources, as well as literary sources from the various cultures and time periods explored. The course is designed to encourage self-direction and self-discipline among the students. Socratic discussion, position papers, lectures, and student-led presentations will enhance the goals of the course to provide a rigorous and challenging curriculum. Course evaluations will consist of presentations, analytical essays, document-based questions (DBQs), position papers, and various historiographic assessments. By focusing on a student centered learning environment with independent ideas, constant writing and analytical exercises, students will refine their skills in preparation for the Advanced Placement World History Exam.

**Text:**

Bulliet, Richard, et. al., The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History, 4th AP edition, Houghton Mifflin, 2008.

**Resource Books:**

- Preparing for the AP World History Exam: The Earth and Its Peoples, McDougal Littell: Boston, 2008.
- Readings in World History, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich: Orlando, 1990.
- Historic Atlas of the World, Hammond World Atlas Corporation: Union, NJ, 1999.
- The Nystrom Desk Atlas, Nystrom: Chicago, 1999.

**Literature Books:**

- Ba, Miriama. So Long a Letter. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1989.
- Diamond, Jared. Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies, New Edition. New York: W. W. Norton, 2005.
- Min, Anchee. Red Azalea. New York: Berkley, 1994.
- Nafisi, Azar. Reading Lolita in Tehran. New York: Random House, 2003.
- Von Eschenbach, Wolfram. Parzival. Middlesex, England: Penguin Books, 1986.

**AP World History Summer Assignment**  
**Mr. Richman 2008-2009**

**Text: Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies, New Edition*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2005.**

***Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond is a history book of big ideas; large-scale questions and themes form the author's perspective. Since the concept of AP World History is to focus on the big ideas, concepts, themes, and trends of history, this book is an entry into our course of studies. *Guns, Germs, and Steel* is available at all book stores and most libraries. We will be reading the new edition, which includes an extra copy not available in the original version. (Please note: though it is not a requirement, it is a good idea to purchase this book as a way to interact with the text through marginal notes and commentary).**

**You will read the entire book, from introduction to conclusion.**

**Time Management Plan**

**Before reading the book, write out a time management plan for your reading schedule and assignment. Set due dates for each chapter and each part of the assignment. Review your management plan with your parent or guardian. This plan will be submitted electronically (e-mailed) by June 30.**

**Remember, reading and reflecting on one chapter at a time will help you "digest" the concepts of the book more easily.**

**Written Reflections**

**Your reflections will be in three separate forms.**

**I. Pre-Reading Assignment**

**Before reading the book, record your answers to the following questions:**

- 1. What is your definition of world history?**
- 2. What interests you about studying world history? What does not?**
- 3. Reflect on your study of World History in grade 10. What themes were most prominent?**

**II. Reading Assignment**

**As you read *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, you will create a written summary of the "Big Ideas" in a journal**

### **Format for Big Ideas**

For each chapter, including the prologue and epilogue, summarize the big ideas Diamond is expressing. One written page should be sufficient for your summary. Make sure that the words you use for your summary are exclusively your own. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in a grade of ZERO for the project and potential removal from the course for academic dishonesty. One way to practice getting the main idea is to orally explain the main idea to someone after you have read the chapter. If you have made it easy for them to understand, then you have successfully identified the main idea.

### **III. Post-Reading Assignment**

After reading the book, incorporate answers to the following questions in a short essay. Your essay should have an arguable thesis of your own. Remember, do not answer these questions in sequence, rather, address them in an essay that both summarizes and evaluates Diamond's book.

1. What question is Jared Diamond trying to answer?
2. What is his thesis?
3. Is he successful in supporting his thesis? Why or why not? To what extent? Are particular chapters stronger than others? Are any chapters particularly problematic?
4. Do you agree with his theory? Why or why not?

This assignment is due the first day of school. No Late work will be accepted for credit. We will be spending the first week of class next year discussing and reviewing the book.

#### **Checklist:**

- Time management plan
- Pre-reading questions
- Chapter summaries
- Post-reading essay