

**AP European History Summer Reading Assignment:**  
“Western Civilization Before 1450 AD”

**Directions:**

AP Euro picks up at the end of the Middle Ages around the year 1450 AD when an intense transformation of European society began during the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Age of Exploration.

Your summer assignment is to better understand European history before 1450 AD. Knowing the foundational events of the ancient and medieval eras will help you better appreciate the major changes Europe experienced beginning in the 15th century, our launching point.

**Part I: Reading Responses:** Visit [www.accordingtophillips.weebly.com](http://www.accordingtophillips.weebly.com) to find.pdf files of the summer readings.

1. Read “The West Before 1300” from *The Western Heritage Since 1300* by Kagan, Ozment, and Turner.
  - Respond to the seven review questions on page lxxvii of the reading.
  - Write clearly and concisely using detailed evidence from the text.
  - The response to each question should be 200-250 words – roughly ½ - ¾ typed page, double-spaced in 12 pt. Times New Roman font with one-inch margins.
2. Read “Chapter 12: The Crisis of the Later Middle Ages” from *A History of Western Society* by McKay, Hill, and Buckler.
  - Answer the six preview questions which introduce the chapter on page 379 in the same manner you answered the questions from *The Western Heritage* – 200-250 words – roughly ½ - ¾ typed page, double-spaced in 12 pt. Times New Roman font with one-inch margins.
3. Your responses are due in class on Thursday, August 30, 2017.
  - In total, your seven *The Western Heritage* and six *A History of Western Society* responses should come out to around a combined 8-10 pages. Number the responses 1-13.

**Part II: Middle Ages Key Terms**

1. Learn about the topics listed at <http://accordingtophillips.weebly.com/prelude-the-late-middle-ages.html> related to the history of Medieval Europe. Most of these are mentioned in the summer readings but you may need to do some additional research too. **I will not collect anything from you related to these terms. I do, however, expect you to know them.**
2. Know the basic identifiers (**who/what, where, and when?**) but you will be assessed on your understanding of “**How** did it make a difference?” (causes and course of the event) and your ability to explain “**Why** is it significant?” (short- and long-term impacts).
3. I will spend 1-2 days quickly lecturing/reviewing these topics when the course begins and then **there will be a test over Medieval European history during the first week of class.** My lecture(s) will not go into depth but will simply serve to clarify and refresh and answer any specific questions you have.

**Part III: Supplemental Media**

If you really want to be ready to dive into AP Euro this fall, consume as much mass media related to European History this summer as possible. See <http://accordingtophillips.weebly.com> for a list of recommendations. This part is completely optional. Several of these titles are R-rated or TV-MA so, kids, *be sure to get your parents’ permission if you’re under 18.*