

World History Advanced Placement (WHAP) Summer Reading Assignment for GSMST 2009 - 2010:

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You are to read *Old World Encounters* by Jerry Bentley and *The History of the World in Six Glasses* by Tom Standage. Expect a test over factual information from both books sometime within the first three days of the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Additionally, please complete the following assignments to show you understand the context of the books. Notes on the book can be found on my teacher web page at <http://www.gsmst.info/tpindexy.php> . Please use them to help you organize your thoughts.

Old World Encounters:

- Pick one of the four time periods described in the book (The Silk Roads, Cross Cultural Exchange, Nomadic Empires, and Recovery From the Dark Ages).
- Describe a cross – cultural encounter of two cultures from your chosen time period.
- Write a 5 paragraph essay in which you discuss the political, economic, social, and cultural exchanges that occur. Underline your thesis statement and each main point.
- **This is due August 10, 2009.**

The History of the World in Six Glasses:

Overview Response

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is the book about?
2. Is the book reliable as a source of historical knowledge?
3. Is the material well presented?
4. What, if anything, did the book contribute to your knowledge and understanding of the history period?
5. What was the most surprising aspect of a drink's impact on history?
6. What misconception that you might have had was changed in your reading? Explain.
7. What do you predict the NEXT drink that influences history is/will be?

Here are some guidelines to help you answer the above questions:

1. What is the book about?

Does the book have a central theme? Does it argue a thesis? What is the author's purpose? S/he may have stated this explicitly in a preface or conclusion, or it may be implied within the book. How well did the author accomplish her purpose? Did s/he really accomplish it, or did s/he do something else? At some point in the review, try to summarize the theme, or thesis in a single sentence.

2. Is the book reliable?

Who is the author? How old is s/he? When was the book written? What kinds of sources – primary or secondary – were used? In what form does the author present her sources? How reliable were the primary or secondary sources? Is there any evidence of selective use of evidence? Is there a bias reflecting a particular political, social, economic, religious, national, cultural, or ethnic group? Do you believe the facts are correct? Do you consider the interpretations valid? Do you believe that the thesis is well supported by the evidence and reasoning? Has the author persuaded you to accept her conclusions and point of view?

3. Is the material well presented?

Is the book understandable? Is the subject well organized? Is the book recommended for the general student or for the professional specialist?

4. What if anything, did the book contribute to your knowledge and understanding of history?

Would you recommend this book to another student in this course? Yes or no, and for what reasons?

Creative Response:

Choose a creative response assignment to show your full understanding of the book's significance. Your analysis and creative synthesis will show a deeper understanding of the material than simple reiteration of points from the book. Choose one from the following:

- Write a song that explains your understanding of the book, or, choose an existing song (alter lyrics if necessary) and explain in a paragraph why it is an appropriate fit with the book.
- Write a commercial for the book including copy & visuals
- Create a board game (or video game) based on the competition between the drinks
- Create a video that illustrates the significance of the various drinks
- Create a game show or a talk show based on the book
- Write a magazine feature interviewing one or more of the drinks
- Write a one-act play in which you choose one time period to depict the significance of that drink
- Write a debate scenario in which 2 or more drinks argue for their prominence in history
- Write a short story about one of the drinks and the history from the book
- Create a scrapbook (or other creative visual like a shadow box) through time of one or more of the drinks in history