

PEDDIE SCHOOL
History Department
Summer Reading 2009

Students in Advanced Placement (A.P.) United States History , AP European History, and AP Art History have summer reading. **Students in AP U.S. Government do not have summer reading, but they are expected to follow current events (see description below) over the summer. There is no summer reading in any other history course.** The assigned books can be purchased online at Amazon.com and should be available at a large chain bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble or Borders. Students are encouraged to purchase books as early in the summer.

9th Grade: Humanities

Please consult English Department List for Readings.

10th Grade: NO SUMMER READING

11th Grade: AP U.S. History:

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AP U.S. MUST READ TWO BOOKS:

-- *Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different*, by Gordon Wood (Penguin. ISBN: 978-0143112082)

Description (Amazon.com): In this brilliantly illuminating group portrait of the men who came to be known as the Founding Fathers, the incomparable Gordon Wood has written a book that seriously asks, "What made these men great?"—and shows us, among many other things, just how much character did in fact matter. The life of each—Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, Hamilton, Madison, Paine—is presented individually as well as collectively, but the thread that binds these portraits together is the idea of character as a lived reality. They were members of the first generation in history that was self-consciously self-made—men who understood that the arc of lives, as of nations, is one of moral progress.

-- *The Cold War: A New History*, by John Lewis Gaddis (ISBN: 978-0143038276)

Description (Amazon.com):Gaddis's latest book boils down the history of the entire Cold War to a sometimes brilliant 266 pages of text, in trenchant, lucid prose intended not for historians and specialists but for ordinary readers. He has not done much new archival field work to produce this new synthesis, and, at times, he relies heavily on his previous work. Yet to Gaddis's credit, he does not merely rewrite himself or retrace the main events from 1946 to 1991. Instead, he stretches to find new ways (like his startling Korean counterfactual above) to cover the subject, stepping back and looking at the entire period with distance and perspective.

12th Grade: A.P. European History:

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AP EURO MUST READ ONE BOOK

-- *Renaissance Florence, Updated edition (Paperback)*, by Gene A. Brucker. (ISBN: 978-0520046955)

Description (Amazon.com): In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the city of Florence experienced the most creative period in her entire history. This book is an in-depth analysis of that dynamic community, focusing primarily on the years 1380-1450 in an examination of the city's physical character, its economic and social structure and developments, its political and religious life, and its cultural achievement.

12th Grade: A.P. Art History

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AP ART HISTORY MUST READ ONE BOOK:

--*Angels & Demons*, by Dan Brown (Penguin Books. ISBN: 0671027360)

Description (Amazon.com): Pitting scientific terrorists against the cardinals of Vatican City, this well-plotted if over-the-top thriller is crammed with Vatican intrigue and high-tech drama. Robert Langdon, a Harvard specialist on religious symbolism, is called in by a Swiss research lab when Dr. Vetra, the scientist who discovered antimatter, is found murdered with the cryptic word "Illuminati" branded on his chest. These Illuminati were a group of Renaissance scientists, including Galileo, who met secretly in Rome to discuss new ideas in safety from papal threat; what the long-defunct association has to do with Dr. Vetra's death is far from clear.

12th Grade: A.P. U.S. Government:

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AP U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:

While AP Government students have no formal summer reading assignment, they should spend time following major national news stories that develop over the summer. Students should be able to identify major political actors and institutions and their relationship to these news items. Students should access their news from a variety of sources including, but certainly not limited to, *The Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com), *Congressional Quarterly Politics* (www.cqpolitics.com), and *The New York Times* (www.nytimes.com).