

A.P. Human Geography 2016-2017
Summer Reading Assignment
Early Light Academy
Mr. Stokka

Instructions to Incoming Students:

In advance of your beginning this course this coming fall, I would like for you to choose two books from the attached list to read over this summer. Also included I will be sending an introductory reading assignment, from our textbook, which will discuss our overarching topic of the class. This will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

The books on this list, from which you need to choose one, have been selected to help you understand the nature and complexity of geography before undertaking its formal study. Moreover, each book in its own way will, I hope, broaden your knowledge of geography by helping make the complex simple and the intricate interesting.

Finally, I have selected these books because they are easily accessible, eminently readable, broadly informative, and specifically focused on some important aspect of geography such as urban development, religion and culture or politics. It is my hope that in anticipation of taking AP Human Geography, you will not only enjoy the subject matter of the book you select but you will also make your AP experience more meaningful.

You will be asked to discuss your book, based on the following rubric, when we come back in late August. With regard to length of response, a total of three to four typed pages would be considered appropriate.

RUBRIC

Please use the following rubric as a guide to how to organize your paper.

1. Your essay should follow the standard format:
 - a. Introduction/Thesis
 - b. Body
 - c. Conclusion
 - d. Title Page
 - i. Title of paper
 - ii. Class
 1. A.P. Human Geography
 - iii. Due Date
 1. August 17th, 2016
 - iv. Teacher
 1. Mr. Stokka
 - e. 12 pt font
 - f. Times New Roman
 - g. 1 inch margins

2. You are answer the following question:
 - a. How does this book relate to the concept of Globalization and the impact Geography can have on a global population?
3. You are also focusing on the significance of the topic, in how it relates to Geography.

Vocabulary Work

- I. Start working on compiling your vocabulary list. You can find them online using Quizlet, or through Barnes and Noble you can purchase Barrons AP Human Geography Flashcard listing. Read through and start to understand the many concepts throughout the course. This listing as well as your book reading will be the starting base for the course.

Summer Book List

1. Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1997, 1999.

This book is very good, and it is highly recommended that, even if you do not read it this summer, you should read it at some point before we finish this course. This is just one perspective of the influence of Geography. This does not reflect the position of Mr. Stokka

2. Kunstler, James Howard. *Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*. Simon and Schuster, June 1993.

This book deals with suburbanization and urban development in the United States and how they have altered our cultural landscape.

3. Lapierre, Dominique. *City of Joy*. Doubleday, October 1985.

This book deals with the culture of the poor in India. Likewise, it gives a clear picture of agricultural life and the impact of religion on day-to-day life in India.

4. Friedman, Thomas. *Longitudes and Attitudes*. Anchor, August 2003.

Friedman's exceptionally frank and convincing columns offer an insightful post-September 11 diary. He asks questions surrounding that day and offers a reporter's perspective on the world from outside U.S. borders. Thomas Friedman is an eminent columnist for the *New York Times*.

5. Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. HarperCollins, 2002.

This is a great book related to the "fast food" culture of America. It tells the story of how America and much of the "globalized" world has become a repository for eating "fast food" and embracing the "fast culture" of America. The book also takes an in-depth look at fast food's associated impact on agricultural and economic practice.

6. Herzog, Brad. *States of Mind*. John F. Blair Pub., 2000.

Paraphrased from the book jacket: "Can you find love in Love, Virginia? Is there inspiration in Inspiration, Arizona? The author took stock of his Generation X lifestyle and didn't like what he discovered. So he and his wife emptied their bank accounts, packed everything into a Winnebago, and set a course for a fabled America they weren't sure existed. What began as a literal search for the small places on the map became a figurative examination of the small places of the heart, a quest for virtues lost amid negativity and disillusionment. Examples from the book include: Justice, West Virginia, where one-half the population descends from the Hatfields and McCoys, to Harmony, California, and a town that's up for sale and can be yours for the right price."

7. Zakaria, Fareed. *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*. W. W. Norton, 2003.

Zakaria contends that something has gone wrong with democracy in America, which has descended into "a simple-minded populism that values popularity and openness." The solution, Zakaria says, is more appointed bodies, like the World Trade Organization and the U.S. Supreme Court, which are effective precisely because they are insulated from political pressures.

8. Foner, Eric. *Who Owns History? Rethinking the Past in a Changing World*. Hill and Wang, 2003.

This book is a collection of essays that span Dr. Foner's career as a preeminent historian. The Columbia University professor takes an in-depth look at how the concept of freedom has been promoted throughout the history of the United States. As well, Foner looks at the complex and controversial topic of how globalization has affected how people from other parts of the world view American "freedom."

9. Sowell, Thomas. Basic Economics: A Citizen's Guide to the Economy. New York: Basic, 2004. Print.

His is the revised and enlarged edition of a new kind of introduction to economics for the general public-without graphs, statistics, or jargon. In addition to being updated, Basic Economics has also become more internationalized by including economic problems from more countries around the world, because the basic principles of economics are not confined by national borders. While most chapter titles remain the same, their contents have changed considerably, reflecting the experiences of many different peoples and cultures

CONCLUSION:

You can find these books at any local library or at a Barnes and Nobel or books store. Reminder you are not required to read all of the books but each one of them discusses and looks at many of the topics, which will be talked about for this class. Do not look at this as work throughout the summer but prep work for a challenging yet rewarding class. While reading these I want the students to really focus on who is the author and start to look at the concept of bias. Good luck and if there are any questions feel free to email me throughout the summer. Let's have a great year!

Thank you,

Mr. Stokka