

AP European History Extra Credit Assignments

I encourage you to expand your knowledge and interests by reading books and watching films for extra credit. It is possible to earn up to 60 points per semester. [Book reviews](#) are worth up to 20 points (10 in summatives and 10 for HW), and film reviews are worth up to 10 points (5 and 5); THANK THE INTERNET AND LACK OF EFFORT for THAT ruling.

The following is *NOT* a comprehensive list. As it says in the [Book Review Directions](#), If you have another book or movie in mind, please discuss it with me. There is a lot of good stuff out there, both fiction and non-fiction. There are many more books and films that I have not listed here. If you have another book or film in mind, please come see me about reviewing it.

See attached directions for book and film review formats.

NON-FICTION BOOKS:

1. [Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies](#) by Jared Diamond. *1998 Pulitzer Prize winner. Environmental, geographical, and human factors that shaped the modern world. There is a documentary film about this book, but as always, the book is better.*
2. [The Swerve: How the World Became Modern](#) by Stephen Greenblatt. *2012 Pulitzer Prize winner. The Renaissance, religion, and science. Excellent read!*
3. [The Columbian Exchange](#) by Alfred W. Crosby, Jr. *Cultural and biological consequences of 1492.*
4. [How the Irish Saved Civilization](#) by Thomas Cahill. *Ireland's role in the Western world from the Roman Empire to the Middle Ages.*
5. [A World Lit Only by Fire](#) by William Manchester. *Medieval thinking and the Renaissance.*
6. [A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century](#) by Barbara Tuchman. *History of medieval intrigue of the 14th centuries, crusades, cathedrals, and chivalry.*
7. [A History of the World in Six Glasses](#) by Tom Standage. *The history of humanity from the Stone Age to present day as told through the history of six popular and classic beverages: beer, wine, tea, spirits, coffee, and Coca-Cola.*
8. [Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love](#) by Dava Sobel. *A historical account of the relationship between the astronomer Galileo and his daughter Virginia, a cloistered nun, who was his greatest strength during his imprisonment for heresy.*
9. [Salt: A World History](#) by Mark Kurlansky. *Salt is a common household item and the only rock we eat. It has also shaped much of civilization and has a surprising role in the history of humankind.*
10. [Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin](#) by Timothy Snyder. *World War II, Eastern Europe.*
11. [To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion](#) by Adam Hoschild. *World War I.*
12. [George, Nicholas, and Wilhelm: Three Royal Cousins and the Road to World War I](#) by Miranda Carter. *The family connection between the belligerents of World War I (Russia, Germany, and Britain).*

13. King Leopold's Ghost by Adam Hoschild. *Long-term and horrifying effects of Europe's colonization of the African Congo.*
14. The Children of Henry VIII by Alison Weir. *A look at the four heirs left behind by Henry VIII and the political and religious conflicts caused by each one's turn on the throne.*
15. Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman by Robert K. Massie. *A narrative biography of Catherine, a minor German princess who became empress of Russia and one of the most powerful and fascinating women in history.*
16. The Diary of Anne Frank. *The diary of a young Jewish girl who hides with her family in an attic during the Holocaust in the Netherlands. This is one of the most famous diaries and Holocaust accounts in the world.*
17. Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda by Romeo Dallaire. *The true and tragic story of a Canadian commander of a UN mission in Rwanda who was unable to bring peace to two warring tribes, and stood by helpless as the world watched one of the most devastating genocides destroyed a country.*

HISTORICAL FICTION BOOKS:

I am hesitant to recommend historical fiction sometimes because it can be **sensationalized** and **inaccurate** at times. However, some historical fiction novels are very educational and provide a more human insight into historic events.

1. The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follet. *Medieval life and political/religious corruption in Medieval England.*
2. World Without End* by Ken Follet. *The Black Plague and Hundred Years War, and a sort of "sequel" to Pillars.*
3. Fall of Giants* by Ken Follet. *World War I and the Russian Revolution.*
4. Winter of the World* by Ken Follet. *Rise of the Third Reich, World War II, Spanish Civil War, and dropping of the first nuclear bomb. Sequel to Fall of Giants.*
5. The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco. *The year is 1327. Franciscans in a wealthy Italian abbey are suspected of heresy, and Brother William of Baskerville arrives to investigate. When his delicate mission is suddenly overshadowed by seven bizarre deaths, Brother William turns to the logic of Aristotle, the theology of Aquinas, and the empirical insights of Roger Bacon to find the killer. He collects evidence, deciphers secret symbols and coded manuscripts, and digs into the eerie labyrinth of the abbey ("where the most interesting things happen at night") armed with a wry sense of humor and a ferocious curiosity.*
6. A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens. *French Revolution epic drama.*
7. Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. *An enlightenment tale of the struggle between good and evil within human nature. There are many philosophical, religious, and political themes.*
8. Les Miserables by Victor Hugo. *A story of redemption, sin, good, evil, faith, law, and revolution set in revolutionary 1800's France.*
9. Sophie's World by Jostein Gaardner. *A story, as told to a 14-year old girl, about the history of philosophy. Alice in Wonderland meets "The Matrix". Very interesting read.*
10. All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque. *Story of the horrors and disillusionment of war in the trenches of World War I.*

11. The Agony and the Ecstasy: A Biographical Novel of Michelangelo by Irving Stone.
12. Candide by Voltaire. *"Is this the best of all possible worlds?" This enlightenment tale is one of the greatest satires ever written, and is a poignant critique of French government, religion, and society in pre-revolution France.*
13. Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens. *A tale of social and economic problems set in Victorian London during the industrial age.*
14. Utopia by Thomas More. *Sixteenth-century classic by brilliant humanist, churchman and scholar envisioned a patriarchal island kingdom that practiced religious tolerance, in which everybody worked, all goods were community-owned, and violence, bloodshed, and vice were nonexistent. Forerunner of many later attempts at establishing "Utopias" both in theory and in practice.*
15. A Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague by Geraldine Brooks. *A novel about a housemaid who becomes a healer and hero during an outbreak of the plague in the year 1666.*
16. The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown. *A murder in the silent after-hour halls of the Louvre museum reveals a sinister plot to uncover a secret that has been protected by a clandestine society since the days of Christ.*
17. Inferno by Dan Brown. *In the heart of Italy, Harvard professor of symbology, Robert Langdon, is drawn into a harrowing world centered on one of history's most enduring and mysterious literary masterpieces . . . Dante's Inferno. Against this backdrop, Langdon battles a chilling adversary and grapples with an ingenious riddle that pulls him into a landscape of classic art, secret passageways, and futuristic science. Drawing from Dante's dark epic poem, Langdon races to find answers and decide whom to trust . . . before the world is irrevocably altered.*

Note: The " * " means that this book has some mature content involving violence and sexuality. If you plan to read this book, please let me know. I will need a permission note from a parent.

FILMS:

While films are educational, keep in mind that the Hollywood industry tends to fictionalize some accounts of history in the interest of selling tickets or making the stories more action-based and intriguing. **NOTE: Films that are rated R need parental consent.**

SEMESTER ONE

Middle Ages:

- *Becket* (1964). King Henry II's relationship with his close friend and confidant, Thomas Becket, in 12th century England.
- *The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc* (1999). **RATED "R"**. A young girl receives a vision that drives her to rid France of its oppressors during the Hundred Years War.

Renaissance, Reformation, and Religious Wars:

- *A Man for All Seasons* (1966 and 1988). The story of the relationship between King Henry VIII and his friend Thomas More during the king's quest for a male heir.

- *Medici: Masters of Florence* (Netflix Original Series)- **RATED R**. A look at Cosimo d' Medici's rise to power in 15th century Florence.
- *Tulip Fever* (2017)-**RATED R**. A young artist falls in love with a young married woman when he is commissioned to paint her portrait during the tulip mania that grips Amsterdam in the 17th century.
- *Luther* (1974). A man's religious views cause a rift between the peasants and the church.
- *The Other Boleyn Girl* (2008). A story about Henry VIII's affair with the sister of his second wife Anne Boleyn.
- *Elizabeth* (1998) **RATED "R"**. A film of the early years of the reign of Elizabeth I of England and her difficult task of learning what is necessary to be a monarch.
- *Elizabeth 2: The Golden Age* (2007) A mature Queen Elizabeth endures multiple crises late in her reign including court intrigues, an assassination plot, the Spanish Armada, and romantic disappointments.
- *Lady Jane* (1986). The story of the very short reign and downfall of Lady Jane Grey, who ruled England for a matter of days after the death of Henry VIII's son Edward.
- *Queen Margot* (1994). **RATED "R"** The story of the arranged marriage of Queen Margot and Henry of Navarre during the French religious wars. In French with English subtitles.
- *The Last Valley* (1971). People in a small German village in the last valley to remain untouched by the devastating Thirty Years' War try to exist in peace with a group of soldiers occupying the valley.
- *Silence* (2016)- **RATED R**. In the 17th century, two Jesuit priests travel to Japan in an attempt to locate their mentor, who is rumored to have committed apostasy, and to propagate Catholicism.
- *The Witch: A New England Folktale* (2015). **RATED R**. A horror film about a colonial family in New England torn apart by the forces of witchcraft, black magic, and possession. Though the film takes place in early Colonial America, it demonstrates the various fears, myths, and superstitions that Europeans brought with them to the New World in the 1600's.

New Scientific Thought and the Enlightenment (1600s/1700s):

- *Amistad* (1997). **RATED "R"**. About a 1839 mutiny aboard a slave ship that is traveling towards the northeastern coast of America. Much of the story involves a court-room drama about the free man who led the revolt.
- *Amazing Grace* (2006). The idealist William Wilberforce maneuvers his way through Parliament, endeavoring to end the British transatlantic slave trade in Enlightenment Britain.
- *Amadeus* (1984). **RATED "R"**. The incredible story of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, told by his peer and secret rival Antonio Salieri - now confined to an insane asylum.
- *Immortal Beloved* (1994). **RATED "R"**. The life and death of the legendary Ludwig van Beethoven. Beside all the work he is known for, the composer once wrote a famous love letter to a nameless beloved
- *The Death of Louis XIV*(2016)- **RATED R**. Foreign French film with subtitles. Upon returning from a hunting expedition, King Louis XIV feels a sharp pain in his leg. He begins to die, surrounded by loyal followers in the royal chambers.

Age of Revolutions/French Revolution:

- *Jefferson in Paris* (1995). A story of Thomas Jefferson's stay in Paris in pre-revolutionary France, and his alleged affair with his slave Sally Hemmings.
- *Les Miserables (any version)* (1998 or 2013). Victor Hugo's unforgettable tale of Jean Valjean, a man who serves 19 years in prison for stealing bread. Set in 1800's revolutionary France, it is one of the most-told stories of our time. The 1998 version is great, but the 2013 musical is fantastic and has some of the most famous musical scores. Note: This is not about the first 1789 revolution. Les Mis takes place in the 1800s, in the years between the revolutions of 1830 and 1848.
- *Dangerous Liaisons* (1988). **RATED "R"**. Rich and bored aristocrats in Rococo France play high-stakes games of passion and betrayal.
- *The Madness of King George* (1994). A meditation on power and the metaphor of the body of state, based on the real episode of dementia experienced by George III (now suspected a victim of porphyria, a blood disorder).
- *A Tale of Two Cities* (1935, 1980, or 1989). A love triangle set against the backdrop of the French Revolution, based on the book by Charles Dickens.
- *Danton* (1983). The story of the famous French Jacobin and politician Georges Danton, a leader of the Committee of Public Safety and uneasy ally of Maximilian Robespierre during France's Reign of Terror. In French with English subtitles.
- *Rob Roy* (1995). **RATED "R"**. In the highlands of Scotland in the 1700s, Rob Roy tries to lead his small town to a better future, by borrowing money from the local nobility to buy cattle to herd to market. When the money is stolen, Rob is forced into a Robin Hood lifestyle to defend his family and honor.
- *The Liberator (2013) (Netflix Original title- Libertador)*- Simon Bolivar fought over 100 battles against the Spanish Empire in South America. He rode over 70,000 miles on horseback. His military campaigns covered twice the territory of Alexander the Great. His army never conquered -- it liberated.

SEMESTER TWO

Industrial Revolution:

- *Oliver!* (1968) Musical adaptation about an orphan who runs away from an orphanage and hooks up with a group of boys trained to be pickpockets by an elderly mentor. Based on the Dickens classic.
- *Oliver Twist* (2005). An adaptation of the classic Dickens tale, where an orphan meets a pickpocket on the streets of London. From there, he joins a household of boys who are trained to steal for their master.
- *Modern Times* (1936) starring Charlie Chaplin. A satirical look at the dehumanizing effects of industrialism.

Imperialism:

- *The Last Samurai* (2003) After Japan's forced modernization at the hands of British and American domination, an American military advisor embraces the Samurai culture he was hired to destroy after he is captured in battle.
- *Hotel Rwanda* (2004) A story of the horrific Rwandan genocide of 1994- a product of long-lasting effects of Belgian colonization and international apathy.
- *Blood Diamond* (2006) **RATED "R"**. A dramatization of the modern-day market of conflict diamonds, also known as blood diamonds, and the roots the trade has in European colonization.

- *The King and I* (1956) A musical about an English school teacher living in Siam (Thailand) and her attempt to teach the king of Siam about western culture.
- *Gandhi* (1982) A film about the life of Mohandas Gandhi, an Indian civil-rights leader who helped lead India to independence from British imperialism through non-violent means.
- *The Last of the Mohicans* (1992) **RATED "R"**. British and French troops battle in colonial America during the French and Indian War, with aid from various native American war parties. A romance between a British officer's daughter and an independent man who was raised Mohican complicates things for the British officer, as the adopted Mohican pursues his own agenda despite the wrath of different people on both sides of the conflict.
- *Battle of Algiers* (1966). A documentary account of one of the bloodiest revolutions in modern history in Algeria's attempt to overthrow French imperialists in the era of France's defeat in Vietnam.
- *The Young Victoria* (2009). A dramatization of the turbulent first years of Queen Victoria's rule, and her enduring romance with Prince Albert.
- *Victoria and Abdul* (2017)- Queen Victoria strikes up an unlikely friendship with a young Indian clerk named Abdul Karim.
- *The Power of One* (1992). A powerful story about a young British boy growing up in South Africa during and after World War II.

World War I, the Russian Revolution, and Europe between the Wars:

- *Nicholas and Alexandra* (1971). The story of the last Romanovs to rule Russia and the revolution that ended their reign.
- *Gallipoli* (1981). Two Australian sprinters face the brutal realities of war when they are sent to fight in the Gallipoli campaign in Turkey during World War I.
- *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930 and 1979). A young German soldier faces profound disillusionment in the soul-destroying horror of World War I. Based on Remarque's novel of the same name.
- *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962). A flamboyant and controversial British military figure and his conflicted loyalties during his World War I service in Arabia.
- *Paths of Glory* (1957). When soldiers in World War I refuse to continue with an impossible attack, their superior officers decide to make an example of them.
- *The Red Baron* (2008). Baron Manfred von Richthofen is the most feared and celebrated pilot of the German air force in World War I. To him and his companions, air combats are events of sporty nature, technical challenge and honorable acting, ignoring the terrible extent of war... In German with English subtitles.
- *War Horse* (2011). Young Albert enlists to serve in World War I after his beloved horse is sold to the cavalry. Albert's hopeful journey takes him out of England and to the front lines as the war rages on.
- *Michael Collins* (1996). **"RATED "R"**. Michael Collins plays a crucial role in the establishment of the Irish Free State in the 1920s, but becomes vilified by those hoping to create a completely independent Irish republic.
- *Doctor Zhivago* (1965). Life of a Russian doctor/poet who, although married, falls for a political activist's wife and experiences hardships during the Bolshevik Revolution.

- *Chariots of Fire* (1981). Two British track athletes, one a determined Jew and the other a devout Christian, compete in the 1924 Olympics.
- *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* (2006). Irish film about the troubles in Ireland. A sympathetic look at Republicans in early 20th century Ireland, and two brothers who are torn apart by anti-Brit rebellion.
- *I Accuse* (1958). The famous "Dreyfus Affair" where a Jewish captain in the French Army is falsely accused of treason. He is sentenced to imprisonment on Devil's Island. When the real traitor is found the French Army tries to hide the truth.
- *The Promise* (2016)- **RATED R**. Set during the last days of the Ottoman Empire, *The Promise* follows a love triangle between Michael, a brilliant medical student, the beautiful and sophisticated Ana, and Chris - a renowned American journalist based in Paris.
- *The Ottoman Lieutenant* (2017)- **RATED R**. A love story between an idealistic American nurse and a Turkish officer in World War I during World War I, as the Ottoman Empire crumbles.

World War II, Stalin's Russia, The Spanish Civil War, and the Holocaust:

- *Life is Beautiful* (1997). An Italian film (with English subtitles) about a Jewish Italian family that is sent to a concentration camp, and the incredible measures a father takes to shelter his son's innocence.
- *The Monuments Men* (2014)- An unlikely World War II platoon is tasked to rescue art masterpieces from Nazi thieves and return them to their owners.
- *Woman in Gold* (2015)- Maria Altmann, an octogenarian Jewish refugee, takes on the Austrian government to recover artwork she believes rightfully belongs to her family.
- *Schindler's List* (1993). Academy-award winner for Best Picture. This is the true story of Oskar Schindler, a Nazi businessman who sacrifices everything to save the lives of Jewish workers.
- *The Battle of Britain* (1969). In 1940, the British Royal Air Force fights a desperate battle vs. the Nazi Germany Air Force for control of British air space to prevent a Nazi invasion of Britain.
- *Das Boot* (1981). **RATED "R"**. The claustrophobic world of a WWII German U-boat; boredom, filth, and sheer terror.
- *Nanking* (2007). **RATED "R"**. The story of the rape of Nanking, one of the most tragic events in history. In 1937, the invading Japanese army murdered over 200,000 and raped tens of thousands of Chinese. In the midst of the horror, a small group of Western expatriates banded together to save 250,000 -- an act of extraordinary heroism.
- *The Great Dictator* (1940). Starring Charlie Chaplin, this film is a satirical parody of Hitler and Nazi Germany. Dictator Adenoid Hynkel has a doppelganger, a poor but kind Jewish barber living in the slums, who one day is mistaken for Hynkel. This film also contains one of the most inspirational speeches in history.
- *Tea with Mussolini* (1999). Semi-autobiographical tale from the early life of director Franco Zeffirelli looks at the illegitimate son of an Italian businessman. The boy's mother has died, and he is raised by an Englishwoman in pre-WWII Fascist Italy.
- *Dunkirk* (2017)- **RATED R**. Allied soldiers from Belgium, the British Empire and France are surrounded by the German army and evacuated during a fierce battle in World War II.

- *The Longest Day* (1962). The events of D-Day, told on a grand scale from both the Allied and German points of view.
- *Casablanca* (1942). Set in unoccupied Africa during the early days of World War II: An American expatriate meets a former lover, with unforeseen complications.
- *Butterfly* (1999). **RATED "R"**. Original title: "La lengua de las mariposas". This is a Spanish film with English subtitles about a young boy who starts school in the same year as the fascist takeover of Spain's republic and the start of the Spanish Civil War.
- *The Inner Circle* (1991). The true story of Ivan Sanchin, the KGB officer who was Stalin's private film projectionist from 1939 until the dictator's death.
- *Denial* (2016)- Acclaimed writer and historian Deborah E. Lipstadt must battle for historical truth to prove the Holocaust actually occurred when David Irving, a renowned denier, sues her for libel.

Post-World War II World:

- *Goodbye Lenin!* (2003). **RATED "R"**. In 1990, to protect his fragile mother from a fatal shock after a long coma, a young man must keep her from learning that her beloved nation of East Germany as she knew it has disappeared.
- *Munich* (2005) **RATED "R"**. At the 1972 Olympics, European and Middle Eastern politics clash when Israeli athletes are taken hostage. Based on a true story.
- *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* (2011) **RATED "R"**. In the bleak days of the Cold War, espionage veteran George Smiley is forced from semi-retirement to uncover a Soviet agent within MI6.
- *The Tunnel* (2001) Based on a true story a group of East Berliners escaping to the West and the building of the Berlin Wall. In German with English subtitles.
- *Ciao Professore!* (1992) **RATED "R"**. A coming-of-age story about an Italian schoolteacher working in an impoverished southern Italian town in the years right after World War II. In Italian with English subtitles.
- *Cinema Paradiso* (1988). **RATED "R"**. Coming-of-age tale about a boy with a passion for movies growing up in 1930s Italy. In Italian with English subtitles.

Directed by
ROBERT B. WEIDE

<p><i>Artists Wanted</i></p>	<p><i>If you enjoy drawing or writing then you should consider using your interests to gain extra credit at some point during the school year. To earn extra credit you may create a painting, political cartoon, poem, song, diary entry, or some other representation of a topic we have already covered or are currently working on. All paintings and political cartoons must be in color. Songs may be original works and/or be accompanied by music or may be based on a song that already exists.</i></p>
<p><i>Let's Talk</i></p>	<p><i>Perhaps you find a topic we discussed in class or you read about to be rather intriguing and you desire more information. Well, why not come in and we can talk about it? If you would like to stop in so we can talk about history, all you have to do is make an appointment or feel free to stop in <u>any</u> Thursday morning at 7:45 am to discuss the topic(s) you are interested in. At the conclusion of the discussion, you will be required to write a one paragraph reflection on the discussion and how it helped to extend your understanding of the topic we covered. Feel free to bring someone with you (they don't even have to be in your class or in AP European).</i></p>
<p><i>Current Events</i></p>	<p><i>Granted, it may be difficult to connect the trials and tribulations of the Anabaptists during the sixteenth century with the 21st century, but there are instances when the history we cover in class seems to...oh, you know, "repeat itself." If ever you come across a news article that makes you think "Hey, we just discussed something like this in class!" then you can turn that into extra credit. For each current event extra credit you complete, you will need to do the following: Provide a proper MLA style citation for the news article at the top of the page. A one paragraph summary of the news story and what historical event or time you found the topic to be related to. A one paragraph analysis of how you believe history played a role in influencing the topic of the news article you found.</i></p>
<p><i>Essay and Test Corrections</i></p>	<p><i>Every essay that is completed in class may be re-written for extra credit. Before you complete a re-write you should meet with Mr. Arroyo to review the essay. Each student will have one week (unless otherwise stated) to complete corrections for a stimulus based multiple choice test.</i></p>