

American Social History

Please buy a copy of *The Story of American Freedom* by Eric Foner. Besides reading parts of the book over the summer, we will use the book during the school year.

Read the Introduction and Chapters 7-13. For each chapter, take notes on the different and contested definitions of freedom. Write down two or three examples of each definition of freedom. For example, who used that definition? In what sense did they mean it? What was the political significance of that definition of freedom? Bring the book and your notes to the first day of class.

If you feel so moved (though not mandatory), read chapters 1-6. They are also good for a broad understanding of US history.

Something to think about: Foner ends his book in 2000. How has the definition of freedom changed since 9-11? Which definition of freedom did G.W. Bush articulate? Has Obama offered a new definition of freedom? If so, what is it?

The question for your writing assignment on this book will look something like: compare and contrast the definition of freedom in American social history in the 20th century.

American Foreign Policy

Please read *The Devil We Know: Dealing with the New Iranian Superpower*, Crown Publishers: New York, 2008 by Robert Baer ISBN 978-0-307-40864-8

Assignment

1. For the introduction, "Iranian Paradox" take notes that explain how, according to Robert Baer, Iran is paradoxical?
2. For each chapter, take detailed/specific notes that quantitatively (statistics etc) and qualitatively answer,
How/ to what extent is Iran positioned to expand its power beyond its borders?
3. For the final chapter, *Memories that Don't Fade*, list Iranian grievances toward the US

Global Cold War – Summer Reading Assignment

Read *The Ransom of Russian Art* and view two films: *The Baader Meinhof Complex* and *Before Night Falls*. Prepare for a one hour open-book-and-notes in-class essay in the first week back. Essay prep below.

The Ransom of Russian Art by John McPhee. 181pp. Published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Hardcover: 0-374-24682-3; \$20.00US. Paperback: 0-374-52450-5; \$12.00US.

The Baader Meinhof Complex (2008). DVD. Netflix this film. Purchase this film. Or wait til the first day of school when McDougal will provide all enrolled students a personal copy of this DVD.

Before Night Falls (2000). DVD. Netflix this film. Purchase this film. Or wait til the first day of school when McDougal will provide all enrolled students a personal copy of this DVD. Significant extra credit for students who read Reinaldo Arenas' memoir of the same name (ISBN 1-852-42808-2) instead of watching the film. Its about ten times better anyways! Seriously!

Prep for 1st Essay of the Semester:

Focus on the protagonists in *The Ransom of Russian Art* (especially Yevgeny Rukhin and Norton Dodge), *The Baader Meinhof Complex* (esp Ulrike Meinhof, Gudrun Ensslin, and Andreas Baader), and *Before Night Falls* (esp Reinaldo Arenas). While reading / viewing, keep track of these different protagonist's motives / goals, fears / vulnerabilities, frustrations / victories, as well as the specific tactics / media / materials they employ to accomplish their goals.

Prepare to write in a comparative way about these protagonists, especially in terms of how they attempted to negotiate state bureaucracies / state repression; to shape popular culture and popular understandings of their era; to engage/ leverage public sentiment / support both within and beyond their locale; and to grapple with the enormity of their time.

Special focus on *The Ransom of Russian Art*. What's the "value" of the "Norton and Nancy Dodge Collection of Nonconformist Art from the Soviet Union"? What exactly does this 9000+ item collection "archive"? How significant do you think this collection is to the history of the Soviet Union? and to the history of the Cold War? How does it change the way "we" look at history?

Beacon Summer Reading: IPE 2010: 12th Grade

Please read The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times And Ideas Of The Great Economic Thinkers [7th Edition], Simon & Schuster, ISBN 0-684-86214, by Robert L. Heilbroner. The book is readily available at Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.com, and at the NYPL.

The summer reading will prepare you for themes in 12th grade International Political Economy next year. There will be a writing assignment on the reading at the beginning of the school year.

Please do the following:

- A) For the INTRODUCTION, explain what is the point of this book, according to Heilbroner? In other words, explain the thesis and "argument" he is making in the Introduction, in your own words.
- B) For each economist (Smith, Keynes, Schumpeter, Marx, etc.), explain:
 - 1) What are his main ideas? How are his ideas different/similar from those of his predecessors? To what extent does this economist build off the ideas of those who come before him? Provide examples from the text. Be sure to cite them with page numbers (in-text citations).
 - 2) To what extent was this economist successful in explaining our world today? Are the ideas of these economists dated? Can they help us understand the current financial crisis? Explain.
 - 3) Rank the economists in terms of their importance - with a brief explanation for why you put them in that order.
- C) What is the main point of "The End of the Worldly Philosophy"?
- D) Come to class on the first day in September with the book (if you buy it); this assignment; and any additional notes you take. Good luck!

Beacon Summer Reading 12th Grade – Lincoln: From Cooper Union to Gettysburg

Please read *The Radical and the Republican*, by James Oakes; W.B. Norton & Co., ISBN 978-0-393-33065-6. The book is readily available at Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.com, and at the NYPL. [I strongly urge you to buy it - we will return to this text all semester long!]

The summer reading will prepare you for themes in "Lincoln: From Cooper Union to Gettysburg." There will be a writing assignment on the reading at the beginning of the school year.

Please do the following:

A) For the INTRODUCTION, explain what the point of this book is, according to Oakes. In other words, explain the thesis and "argument" he is making in the Introduction, in your own words.

B) Please read the seven (7) chapters carefully, taking notes, annotating, underlining/highlighting - in whatever type of system works for you. You will want to note page numbers for specific information and quotes [hint - they will help you with the writing assignment in September!]. Here are some questions to help *guide* your reading, to enable you to get a better understanding of: the two men; the time period; the major issues confronting them; and the momentous changes that occur to them and the country:

- How do Lincoln and Douglass change during the time period the book covers - note specific examples for each from the whole book.
- How do they affect each other; give specific examples from the book.
- Historian Eric Foner, a leading authority on the Civil War era, in a review of the book, asserted, "Oakes's main theme is how, from very different beginnings, the views of Douglass and Lincoln converged." Note examples of this book and why it happened, according to Oakes.
- Finally, as you read the book, think about this overview of it, also written by Foner; look for evidence that does or does not support it: "[Many] recent books have sought to restore Lincoln's standing as the Great Emancipator, a reputation somewhat tarnished by studies of his far-from-egalitarian racial views. These books rightly emphasize Lincoln's genuine hatred of slavery. But too often, they insist that the road he took to emancipation was the only possible one...We know Lincoln's course was the only possible one because the pragmatic Lincoln chose it; anyone who demanded more was, by definition, asking for the impossible. These writers fail to understand that the abolitionists' effort to arouse public sentiment regarding slavery was itself a political strategy. They helped to make the impossible possible. Without the abolitionists, there could have been no Lincoln. One of the ways James Oakes's *The Radical and the Republican* advances the study of Lincoln and emancipation is by making Frederick Douglass an equal protagonist. The addition of Douglass significantly deepens the analysis and the range of

political views represented and allows Oakes to reach beyond the tunnel vision that afflicts so many recent studies of Lincoln."

C) Please read the "For Further Reading" at the end (on P. 289 in the paperback version) and then *briefly* explain some of the historiography that Oakes lays out about the study of Douglass, Lincoln, the antislavery movement, the Civil War and emancipation, and the aftermath of the war.

D) Come to class on the first day in September with the book and ALL of your notes. There will be a writing assignment EARLY in the semester for which these notes will be essential in order to be successful. See you in September for an exciting semester. Enjoy and good luck!

Modern India

Please read *White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga. The book is readily available—get it used if you can.

The summer reading will prepare you for themes in 12th grade history next year and give you ideas for your 12th grade PBA. There will be a writing assignment on the readings at the beginning of the school year.

Please do the following:

White Tiger by Aravind Adiga

Enjoy the novel. It is a quick read that gives you a flavor of the problems among the rich and poor, the higher and lower castes, and city and village life. As you read, keep in mind themes and metaphors that run through the book as well as an awareness of the setting and mood and the characters and their relationships with others.

Come to class on the first day in September with the book (if you buy it); this assignment; and any additional notes you take. Good luck!

Russian History Course

Please read the following two "novellas":

The Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstoy and

One Day in the Life of Ivan Danisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Copies are widely available in libraries, stores and on Amazon.

The assignment on the books is the following:

Based on these two books (one 19th and one 20th century) write a short essay (roughly 3-4 pages) that answers the following:

What does it mean to be Russian?

Please use evidence directly from the novellas to support your answer.