

Summer Assignment

Understanding World History in today's world is critical. Our world has shrunk immeasurably and what affects other parts of the world affects the United States. This idea of connectivity feels new and yet it is not. In many ways the world has always been a small place. Cultures, peoples, ideas have always been intertwined. How we define ourselves, find our identity, is deeply rooted in history, which is both comforting, and harmful. This summer I would like you to explore the theme of identity and history in your first mandatory book.

This assignment is a joint assignment with your English class.

REQUIRED

READ AND ANNOTATE THE FOLLOWING BOOK

The Moor's Account by Laila Lalami (Author)
ISBN-10 : 0804170622
ISBN-13 : 978-0804170628

Annotate for historical context, both for what you know and what you do not know.

Review: In these pages, Laila Lalami brings us the imagined memoirs of the first black explorer of America: Mustafa al-Zamori, called Estebanico. The slave of a Spanish conquistador, Estebanico sails for the Americas with his master, Dorantes, as part of a danger-laden expedition to Florida. Within a year, Estebanico is one of only four crew members to survive. As he journeys across America with his Spanish companions, the Old World roles of slave and master fall away, and Estebanico remakes himself as an equal, a healer, and a remarkable storyteller. His tale illuminates the ways in which our narratives can transmigrate into history—and how storytelling can offer a chance at redemption and survival.

RECOMMENDED FOR HISTORY CLASS

If you would like to explore modern history more, the following is a list of engaging documentaries on topics that will be covered during the school year.

1. CNN Special Report on North Korea https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jqw93O4_MrY
2. The Cold War Series- CNN (Each Episode can be watched as a single documentary) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqQTGqj0Wo4&list=PLnK8dyMAVbZ85xkMooOKkJ4bqdn3P_iUa (I would recommend NOT choosing the Berlin Airlift)
3. The Romanovs (Royal Family of Russia) <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/romanovs/>
4. Blood and Oil (History of the Middle East during WWI) <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/blood-oil/>
5. Americas- Great Indian Nations <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/americas-great-indian-nations/>
6. Poor Us- Animated History <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/poor-us-animated-history/>
7. Guns, Germs, and Steel <https://cosmolearning.org/documentaries/guns-germs-and-steel-683/>
8. The Empire in Africa (story of Sierra-Leone and the Diamond Industry) <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/empire-africa/>

9. Haitian Revolution <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/haitian-revolution-toussaint-louverture/>
10. The Canary Effect (documentary that looks into the effects of that the United States and its policies have on the Indigenous peoples <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/canary-effect/>)
11. Iran- Seven Faces of a Civilization <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/iran-seven-faces-of-civilization/>
12. Brazil- an Inconvenient History (story of slavery in Brazil) <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/brazil-inconvenient-history/>
13. The 11th hour <https://vimeo.com/107108296>
14. Frontline: Policing the Police <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/policing-the-police/>
15. LISTEN TO ANY TED RADIO HOUR AVAILABLE ON NPR- this will count as a documentary. <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510298/ted-radio-hour>
16. Frontline Podcast: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/>
17. Frontline: The Plastic Wars: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/plastic-wars/>
18. Frontline: China Undercover <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/china-undercover/>
19. Nigeria's Transformation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sAHRcyVwYo>
20. BBC: Empire: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vu5jPlsGYfo&list=PLdFlwwiQWslWwvtSKkIJqA30ggs6sisQh> (each episode can be considered one documentary)

ONCE SCHOOL BEGINS:

Your annotations of the book will serve as “proof” of what you read and you will turn in your annotations. Do not annotate your book with expressions like “interesting”. Have a dialogue with the book but make sure it is specific and thoughtful. Argue with your book, question your book, analyze your book, but do not glaze over your book.

For the mandatory book we read, we will research the historical content in the book and discuss.

If you watch additional documentaries, I will ask you to share with the class and you will have begun class with some extra credit built in!

Good luck students!! I look forward to seeing you all!