

Dear AP European History Student,

Advanced Placement European History is a course that is designed to cover a survey course at the college level. In this regard, it is a demanding course that shouldn't be taken lightly. The course involves extensive reading of historical documents and a college level text book. In addition to the reading, students will be responsible for several writing assignments throughout the quarters, symposiums, presentations and projects. As always, we are implementing a summer reading assignment. Students are to purchase or check out from the library, *A World Lit by Fire* by William Manchester. The corresponding written assignment is attached to this letter. If you do not plan on completing the summer assignment please consider dropping the class and finding a course that is more appropriate for your needs.

It is also advised that a student seeking college credit with the AP Examination at the end of the year should purchase an AP study guide. If you have any questions regarding this assignment I can be contacted at the following email address, [mmoynihn@ci.stamford.ct.us](mailto:mmoynihn@ci.stamford.ct.us). I hope your summer is productive and fun. I am looking forward to the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Moynihn', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Matthew Moynihn  
AP European Instructor

**AP European History**  
**Summer Reading Project for Advanced Students**  
**Social Studies Department**  
**Stamford High School**  
**Mr. M. Moynihan**  
**mmoynihan@ci.stamford.ct.us**

The following assignment is based on the book *A World Lit Only by Fire: The Medieval Mind and the Renaissance* (1992) by William Manchester.

**This assignment should be type written and is due the 1st day of class. No exceptions. You may e-mail me with any questions during the summer.**

I. Define each of the following words making sure that your definition agrees with the context in which the word is used. Page numbers have been provided to help find the appropriate sense of meaning.

Eviscerated 36  
Emasculated 44  
Misogyny 70  
Lubricity 71  
Invested 71  
Cupidity 74  
Satirical 74  
Admixture 79

Comity 102  
Speciosity 104  
Vituperative 109  
Apostasy 113  
Parricide 125  
Irascible 137  
Salubrious 137  
Crepitation 139

Derogating 162  
Sophistry 204  
Prerogative 206  
Panjandrums 268  
Venerary 270  
Obloquy 288  
Indefatigable 299

## II. Short Answers/Essay

1. In a well written paragraph explain what characteristics Manchester attribute's to the medieval mind? How were these features manifested in the life of ordinary people as well as among the powerful and influential?

2. Select three of the following six options. Write a well written paragraph which provides a complete answer. Be certain that you answer all parts of each selected option.

- A. The German princes and people supported Luther's reformation more for political and economic reasons than for religious ones. Explain detailing examples from the book.
- B. A split in the Catholic Church or a movement for reform was inevitable because of the abuses and worldliness of those who were its leaders and spokesmen. Assess the validity of this statement and support your answer from the reading.
- C. According to prelate Alvaro Pelayo of Spain (1500s) "Wolves are in control of the church and feed on [Christian] blood!" Explain this quotation for the time period 1200-1517 and assess its validity.
- D. Using the cartoon on page 200 as a starting and reference point, discuss the actions taken by the Catholic Church to institute reform and assess whether or not the Lutherans (source of the cartoon) are justified in their feeling. (Note: The 3 men in the cartoon are Cardinals and the painting behind the altar is of the Pope. Also look at page 132)
- E. Give specific thoughts, values and actions of Magellan, which caused Manchester to single him out as the exemplar of the Renaissance spirit. What is the contrast between the Renaissance spirit (Magellan) and the medieval mind (Chapter 1)?
- F. The last section of chapter I, The Medieval Mind, ends with a list of names (pg 27-28). Pick 3 of these names and explain why Manchester implies that these names are "dragons" lurking to destroy the medieval status quo.