AP Human Geography (9th Grade)

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<th>Required Reading</th>
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| Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies 1st Edition  
by Jared M. Diamond |

Assignment 1: Guns, Germs, and Steel

The concept of AP Human Geography is to focus on the big ideas, concepts, themes, and trends of human history, across the world. Instead of focusing on minor events and occurrences, we will focus on the big ideas that have shaped world history and our world today. To get your mind thinking in this direction, as you read Guns, Germs and Steel you will create a written and illustrated summary of the “Big Ideas” for each chapter you read.

Format for “Big Ideas”

- For each assigned chapter, including prologue and epilogue, summarize AND illustrate the big ideas. One page per chapter is sufficient. For the illustrations, you can use your own artwork, symbols, collage-type cutouts or computer printouts. Words can be melded into the art in any way you choose. Some chapters may have more artwork, some may have more words – get the main idea so it makes sense to you. **Make sure the words are your own. Evidence of plagiarism will result in a grade of ZERO for this project.**

Focus on the big ideas and don't get bogged down in the science, unless you are really interested. One way to practice getting the main idea is to verbally explain the main idea to someone after each chapter.

Read 5 of the following 9 chapters in the book:

- Prologue Yali’s Question
- Ch. 1: Up to the Starting Line
- Ch. 2: A Natural Experiment of History
- Ch. 4: Farmer Power
- Ch. 6: To Farm or Not to Farm
- Ch. 9: Zebras, Unhappy Marriages, and the Anna Karenina Principle
- Ch. 10: Spacious Skies and Titled Axes
- Ch. 11: Lethal Gift of Livestock
- Ch. 12: Blueprints and Borrowed Letters
- Ch. 13: Necessity’s Mother
Choose one chapter to read from 15 through the Epilogue.

Feel free to read the rest of the book if you’d like, but you are not required to do summaries for those extra chapters.

II. Post-reading Assignment
After reading the book, answer five of the following questions.
1. What question is Jared Diamond trying to answer?
2. What is his thesis?
4. Do you agree with this theory? Why or why not?
5. What would be Jared Diamond’s definition of world history?
6. How has Diamond’s book affected your thinking about world history?
8. Would you recommend this book? To whom? Why or why not?
9. Share any other reactions, thoughts, or questions you have.

Assignment 2: Vocabulary Flashcard Fundamentals
An important component to understanding human geography and our world is to be familiar with and be able to apply an array of vocabulary terms and concepts. This is also fundamental to doing well on the AP Exam.

Materials: Standard 3x5 note cards (your choice of colors), pen, internet, online textbook (see Schoology group)

Directions: You are charged with creating your own flashcards for each unit of study. You will create them on your own time and follow your own organizational style. The vocabulary words will be given at the beginning of each period. You must bring these flashcards with you to class every day. Obviously, your stack of flashcards will grow significantly as the year progresses. A binder ring or a zip-lock bag might be useful for storage. There are over 500 terms, concepts, models, and people to be defined or identified. Your first batch of vocabulary cards will cover Unit 1 concepts and items that will be revisited multiple times throughout the year.

The following are the basic requirements for this assignment:
1. Must use 3x5 notecards/index cards
2. The term, concept, model, or person goes on one side with the definition, examples, and picture on the other.
3. Definitions must be in your own words!
Assignment 3: Free Response Writing Practice

Respond to the following prompt in writing. You should use evidence from Guns, Germs and Steel to support your response. Your response should be 1-2 pages in length and should follow all MLA formatting guidelines.

Walls and other barriers built by countries to establish their borders are some of the oldest and most controversial elements in the cultural landscape.

a. Identify three examples of walls or other barriers built by countries in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
b. Explain the purpose of one of the examples you identified in part a.
c. For each of the categories listed below, discuss a consequence faced by countries as a result of walls or other barriers established along their borders.
   i. social or political
   ii. economic
   iii. environmental

All assignments are due on the first day of school!