

AP World Modern

Summer Reading Assignment

2025-2026



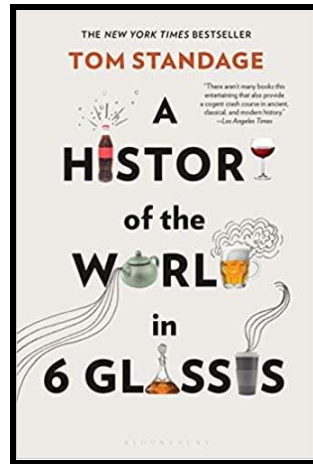
Course Overview

Welcome to AP World Modern! This class is a college-level world history course that covers a wide range of material within the themes of political, social, economic, cultural and environmental history. Our goals for the year are many. First, you will acquire a vast knowledge of historical content as our reading and curriculum will cover broad regional and global developments. Some of these include the spread of world religions, the rise and fall of empires, the development of global trade networks and the interactions between humans and the environment. Next, you are charged with the role of the historian. You will engage with primary documents and historiography (the literature of historians) to make and support claims of your own. Finally, you will combine your knowledge of world history and your ability to support your historical arguments as you take the AP World History exam in May of 2026. A passing score on this exam holds the potential of awarding students college credit for their mastery over complex historical themes and content. I look forward to a rigorous and rewarding year with each of you! I know you are up to the challenge, and look forward to spending the next year with you on this journey through time.

First steps:

1. Please join the **"AP World - Summer Assignment 2025"** Google Classroom by using class code: **p5b6xcsd**
2. Please take note that the due date for this summer assignment is **Sunday, August 19, 2025**.
3. Be prepared to submit your written work to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) (plagiarism checker) when class starts.

Summer Reading & Writing Assignment



Tom Standage
A History of the World in 6 Glasses
(Bloomsbury, 2005)¹

1. Purchase a paperback copy of the book. [You can find a copy of this book for \\$14 or less on Amazon.](#) I recommend you purchase your own copy so you can take notes and underline in the book.
2. Before reading the book, first read the writing prompts below carefully so you know what to pay close attention to as you read.
3. **Read and annotate the book.** You might also want to take brief handwritten notes (any style), especially noting down relevant information (and page numbers) that will help you answer the prompts. I will not collect these notes, but you may submit copies to me if you take them. As you take notes, you might create icons for ["SPICE" themes of world history](#): **SOCIETY, POLITICS, INTERACTIONS with the ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE and ECONOMY**
4. Respond to the prompts and submit to Google Classroom AND be prepared to submit to turnitin.com when class starts in the fall.
5. **NOTE:** You must be signed in with your VCS email account to access linked templates here.

Submit your completed template to [Google Classroom](#) AND [turnitin.com](#) on **August 19, 2025 at 11:59pm.** *Though not required, you may also choose to upload photos of your

¹ **Disclaimer #1:** This book is a history of the world written through the lens of various beverages as forms of social and cultural technology. For instance, the chapter on beer sheds insight into aspects of religious and cultural aspects of society as a result of the agricultural revolution. The chapter on spirits is contextualized within the very important historical developments of colonization and the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. The periodization of the book will prove useful for students in conceptualizing the six "periods" of world history as outlined by the AP College Board Framework. In no way does this reading assignment reflect the instructor's or Village Christian School's endorsement of the misuse of alcoholic or caffeinated beverages.

Disclaimer #2: This book is written by a secular historian who may be writing based on certain assumptions about human history that you do not share. For instance, the first few pages discuss the "emergence of 'anatomically modern' humans, or Homo sapiens sapiens." In the first few weeks of class, we will discuss our own worldview and our understanding of history from a Biblical perspective. In no way does this reading assignment reflect the instructor's or Village Christian Schools' endorsement of an evolutionary view of history.

handwritten notes to Google Classroom on the appropriate assignment for your selected work. DO NOT turn the work in on our summer google classroom, rather on our normal GC page.

WRITING REQUIREMENTS:

- Using information only from Standage's *History of the World in 6 Glasses*, answer the prompts below in thorough responses. Each prompt contains TWO questions. Each question should be answered in one extended [M.E.A.E.A.L. paragraph](#) (please review the format of M.E.A.E.A.L. paragraph). Begin with the **MAIN IDEA**, supported by **EVIDENCE** from the text and your **ANALYSIS** on how the evidence proves your main idea. Add additional evidence and analysis to support your point. End with a **LINK** - a restatement of your main idea or a transition to your idea.

$$2 \text{ paragraphs per prompt} \times 6 \text{ prompts} = 12 \text{ M.E.A.E.A.L. paragraphs}$$

- Be sure to include a proper assignment heading at the top of your printed assignment including your name, date, course title and course assignment.
- Your responses must be numbered, typed and **in your own words**. Please note that your written work will be checked for plagiarism against all student work submitted from VCS students (present and past) and students from any other academic institutions. **DO NOT CONSULT OUTSIDE SOURCES, AI TOOLS, OR OTHER STUDENTS' WORK.** Your answers to the writing prompts should be answered based on your reading of the text. When citing information from the text, use quotations and include in-line citations with page numbers (i.e. Standage, 25). Do not compromise your academic integrity. This summer assignment should represent your own diligent work and critical thinking and will help prepare you for the curriculum this year.
- The document should be formatted according to MLA specifications, with a proper heading in the upper left hand corner. Please do not include the prompts in the document you submit, only your numbered responses.
- The book contains 274 pages of text. Pace yourself so you are not cramming in the last week. If you read 10 pages for 28 days over the summer, you will have plenty of time to complete the reading and writing assignment with no pressure. If you are an avid reader, you could get this assignment done even more quickly, with plenty of time to spare for other summer work.

PROMPTS

For the questions below, your focus should be on human developments and patterns in history, not necessarily the drinks themselves. The beverages serve as a lens to understanding broader historical themes and patterns.

1. This prompt relates to "Beer in Mesopotamia and Egypt" (Chapters 1 and 2).

- a. Identify and discuss one broad **environmental development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on beer.
- b. Additionally, identify and discuss one broad **economic development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on beer.

2. This prompt relates to "Wine in Greece and Rome" (Chapters 3 and 4).

- a. Identify and discuss one broad **cultural development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on wine.
- b. Additionally, identify and discuss one broad **social development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on wine.

3. This prompt relates to "Spirits in the Colonial Period" (Chapters 5 and 6).

- a. Identify and discuss one broad **political development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on spirits.
- b. Additionally, identify and discuss one broad **economic development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on spirits.

4. This prompt relates to "Coffee in the Age of Reason" (Chapters 7 and 8).

- a. Identify and discuss one broad **cultural development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on coffee.
- b. Additionally, identify and discuss one broad **political development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on coffee.

5. This prompt relates to "Tea and the British Empire" (Chapters 9 and 10).

- a. Identify and discuss one broad **economic development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on tea.

- b. Additionally, identify and discuss one broad **political development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on tea.
- 6. This prompt relates to “Coca-Cola and the Rise of America” (Chapters 11 and 12).
 - a. Identify and discuss one broad **economic development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on Coca Cola.
 - b. Additionally, identify and discuss one broad **political development** that affected human history during the period Standage characterizes in his section on Coca Cola.

**REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK BY SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025
by 11:59pm ON OUR REGULAR GOOGLE CLASSROOM NOT THE
SUMMER GOOGLE CLASSROOM.**

Be prepared for a scored discussion during the first week of class based on your summer reading. Have a relaxing but productive summer!