

## Summer “reading”...I mean “watching” list for Advanced Placement World History Thomas Stone High School 2009-10

It is an established fact that there are several different types of learning styles: “visual” being one of the most common. So, in order to accommodate those “visual” learners, the Advanced Placement World History teachers have chosen to give a different summer assignment....

Actually, the AP World History teachers realize that many AP teachers give reading assignments over the summer. While we recognize the importance of reading (and you will be doing a lot of it during this class), we are not so old and “out of it” that we have forgotten that summers are for relaxing and having fun. So in an attempt to find a balance between work and fun, we have come up with the following summer assignment.

The assignment: Each student must watch one movie out of the following five time periods (there is a list of movies attached):

8000 BCE- 600 CE, 600 CE- 1450, 1450- 1750, 1750-1914, 1914-1990

After watching the movies, write a summary for each movie (A TOTAL OF FIVE SUMMARIES!!). Use the summary description below to guide your writing. **Assignments will be due on August 28, 2009, the first Friday of school.**

**Summary:** 150-200 words **each**, typed

The summary should include:

- a brief description of the historical event or person that is portrayed in the movie
- the dates of the event or person
- where the event took place or the person lived
- what is the major lesson to be learned from that event or person
- can **any** connection be made between the past and the present. If so, what is that connection?
- mention in a sentence whether or not you like the film and if it sparked an interest.

HINT: If you have friends, you all can watch the SAME movie BUT YOU HAVE TO TURN IN SEPARATE SUMMARIES. Watch the movie together and have a discussion on it, so you understand it better!! ☺

Final Notes:

None of these movie are required as we recognize the fact that some of these movies are rate “R”. Parental permission is needed to view a “R” rated movie if you are under the age of 17.

### **Two things that are highly suggested:**

These are things that you can do over the summer that will help improve your 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grade and aid in your study of world history.

- 1- Get an atlas and begin to learn (memorize) the name, location, and capital for all countries.
- 2- If you feel that you are weak in research skills, writing skills, reading and/or note-taking skills, **attend the AP Skills Clinic at Thomas Stone HS. Call the school for information. It is free of charge.**

## **8000 BCE – 600 CE**

The 300 Spartans (1962) VHS

Based on the history of Spartan king Leonidas and 300 soldiers holding off Xerxes attack at Thermopylae.

Barefoot in Athens (TV) (1966) 76 mins. VHS

The last days of Socrates, including his trial.

Alexander the Great (1956) 143 mins VHS

Spartacus (1960) VHS

Cleopatra (1963) 243 mins VHS

Sign of the Pagan (1955) 92 mins.

The Story of Attila the Hun....

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1966) VHS

Based on Plautus' play Miles Gloriosus.

Jesus Christ Superstar (1973) 108 mins VHS

Ben-Hur (1959) 212 mins. VHS

Mohammad, Messenger of God/The Message (1977)

A story on Mohammad the founder of Islam

The Emperor and the Assassin (1999) [Alt: Jing ke ci qin wang ]

The story of the first Chinese Emperor, Qin Shih Huang Di

## **600 CE – 1450 CE**

Constantino Il Grande (1961)[Alt: Constantine The Great \Constantine And The Cross]

The story of the founder of Byzantium in the center of which is the scene of the flaming cross which the Emperor sees in the sky just before the big battle.

Attila, Flagello Di Dio (1954) [Alt: Attila, Attila the Hun]

Attila prepares to attack Rome.

Simón del desierto (1965) [Alt: Simon of the Desert]

Buñuel's version of the story of St. Simon Stylites, who stood on a pillar for forty years. This is one of the best accounts of Early Christian Asceticism ever put on screen.

Theodora, Imperatrice Di Bizanzio (1909) [Alt: Theodora Empress Of Byzantium]

The Last Roman (1968) [Alt: Kampf um Rom]

Based on Felix Dann's German bestseller Kampf um Rom about the decline of the Roman Empire.

Based on a 19th century novel by Felix Dahn it presents the struggle of the daughters of the Gothic king Theodoric for power after his death. and then the conquest of their kingdom in Italy by the Byzantine general Belisarius . the movie won a very bad critical views but it is very grandiose and detailed.

Tsar Ivan Groznyj (1991)

The Legend of the Suram Fortress aka Ambavi Suramis tsikhitsa (1984)

The film is set in medieval Georgia and the legend concerns the last wall around the Suram fortress. The wall collapses no matter what the builders try to keep it standing. A woman denied by the man she loves makes a prophecy and advises the prince who abandoned her to bury his son in the walls of Suram Fortress to protect it during a siege. According to the prophecy the only way to complete the wall around the fortress is to immure the hero into the wall.

El Naser Salah el Dine [Alt: Saladin] (1963)

An Arab movie about Saladin. It is not clear in the movie that Saladin was a Kurd, not an Arab, and he is presented as a prototype of Nasser in calling for Arab unity in order to expel the western intruders.

The Seventh Seal (1957)

Set in 14th-century Sweden, about a knight returning from a crusade playing a chess game with death. The film made Bergman famous. It is less about the crusade era, however, than Swedish existentialism in the 1950s.

The Advocate [Alt: The Hour of the Pig]

A 15th-century French lawyer defends a pig put on trial for murder.

Black Cross (1960) [Alt: Krzyzacy]

About the Teutonic knights. Not up to Eisenstein

The Messenger

A modern look at the life of Joan D'Arc

El Cid (1961)

Becket (1964)

Based on Jean Anouilh's play about Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas à Becket and his English King, Henry II. Although there is no historical data to support the suggestion, Anouilh sees a homosexual relationship. Superb film.

The Lion in Winter (1968)

The intra-familial disputes of the Plantagenets are quite accurately depicted. What does not come across is that by the late 12th century dynasticism, although it still had legs, was supplemented by increasingly elaborate state structures.

Ivanhoe (1952)

based on Sir Walter Scott's romantic novel. Saxons support Richard, Normans support John, and Elizabeth Taylor at her most beautiful as Rebecca (one of the few movie representations of any Medieval Jewish character).

A Man for All Seasons (1966)

The story of St. Thomas More as a man of conscience. Won six Oscars.

Elizabeth (1998)

Stealing Heaven (1988)

Abelard and Heloise's love affair.

The Black Rose (1950)

A noble Saxon youth in Norman England is forced to run away. He takes with him a loyal retainer who brings along a long bow. The two go all the way to China where they become involved in intrigues in the court of Kublai Khan. Note that the trope of Saxon/Norman conflict is here extended well into the late 13th century!

Marco the Magnificent (1965)

## **1450 – 1750**

Captain From Castile (1947)

Cortez' conquest of Mexico and the Spanish Inquisition all involved in on story. With a famous score by Alfred Newman.

Cyrano de Bergerac (1990)

Based on a late 19th century play about a long-nosed early 17th century Frenchman.

Beatrice (1988)

Violent family story set during the Hundred Years War. A father bullies his son and engages in incest with his daughter.

The Mission 1986

The Jesuit plantations in Paraguay

Black Robe 1991, 101 mins.

Jesuit missions in Quebec.

Royal Hunt of the Sun 1969

The conquest of Peru by Francisco Pizarro.

The Agony and the Ecstasy 1965

The story of Michaelangelo.

The Last Valley 1991, 125 mins

Set in 1641, the twenty-third year of the Thirty Years' War. Sharif plays Vogel, a teacher who is now a wandering beggar since his entire family was slaughtered. He encounters a group of ruthless mercenaries who are riding toward a nearby village.

Fire Over England 1937, 89 mins. BW

All about the Armada.

The Return of Martin Guerre 1982 [aka La Retour de Martin Guerre] [in French or with English subtitles]

One of the best historical movies ever made. Get subtitled rather than dubbed version.

Vatel 2000

focuses on three days in 1671 when the Prince de Condé hosted Louis XIV and his court.

Tempest 1959

On the Pugachev peasant uprising in Catherine the Great's Russia

Cromwell 1970

Dir. Ken Hughes (I). With Richard Harris and Alec Guinness.

## **1750 – 1914**

The Madness of King George 1994

Galileo 1975

An all star cast, but this going to be hard to find.

Valmont 1989 136 mins.

Based on the same de Laclos novel as Dangerous Liaisons.

The Leopard [aka Il Gattopardo] 1963 205/165 mins cut

The film shows Sicilian life, landlord-tenant relations, and social unrest around 1860. Lancaster plays a Prince trying to work out he responds to the unification of Italy and the Risorgimento.

Germinal 1993 [In French] 170 mins

Sprawling film on Zola's novel about a strike in French mining village.

Danton 1982 [in French]

This film by a polish director caused a sensation in France for its perceived criticism of the Revolution.

Citizen Kane 1941 119mins

An account of Golden Age capitalism

The Molly Maguires 1970 124mins

Based on a US miners strike.

1900 1976 [in Italian]

Saga about the Italian Communist party and the rise of the Black Shirts.

The Charge of the Light Brigade (1968) 145mins

Dir. Tony Richardson, With Trevor Howard and Vanessa Redgrave.

A much more accurate historical account by a british director. As might be expected, unlike the racial motifs of the US film, social class is the major factor here.

Les Misérables 1998

Zulu Dawn 1969 115mins

A dramatization of the Battle of Isandlwana during the Anglo-Zulu war.

Breaker Morant 1980

Three Australian lieutenants are on trial for shooting Boer prisoners during the Boer War.

Lawerence of Arabia

The classic movie about a British officer in Arabia prior to WWI

## **1914 – 1990**

Out of Africa 1985

Isak Dinesen's life in 1910's Kenya.

Black and White in Color [aka Noirs et blancs en couleur] 1976.

On the experiences of French and German colonies in Africa as they learn of the Great War "seven months behind the news."

Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India 2001 225 mins.

An Indian film about British imperialism and a village uniting to resist the land tax (lagaan). It is nostalgic, on the other hand, for an India where religious and communal divisions were rejected in favor of the fight against the Empire.

Paths of Glory 1957

A courtroom movie [compare with Breaker Morant]. The futility and irony of the war in the trenches in WWI is shown as a unit commander in the French army must deal with the mutiny of his men and a glory-seeking general after part of his force falls back under fire in an impossible attack. See also summary [with spoilers] at filmsite

Reds 1981

The Russian Revolution, and socialist politics in general, from the viewpoint of the American journalist John Reed, the author of the classic Ten Days that Shook the World.

Nicholas and Alexandra 1971

The Russian Revolution from the viewpoint of the Tsar and Tsarina.

Dr. Zhivago 1965

Based on the novel by Boris Pasternak.

Luna Park 1982, 105 mins.

Russia after the collapse of Communism.

The White Rose 1982

True story of the resistance to Nazism by some students at Munich University.

Bataan 1943

Long considered one of the great war movies.

The Longest Day 1962, 180 mins

First telling of the story of D-Day.

Judgment at Nuremberg 1961

Jakob the Liar 1999, 114 mins

With Robin Williams. Similar story to Life is Beautiful.

Exodus 1960

Israel's birth pangs from a particular point of view.

La Battaglia di Algeri 1965 [in French with English subtitles.]

Chronicles the Algerian war against French colonialism.

Gandhi

Richard Attenborough's hagiography of modern India's founder. (A Sollohub Favorite)

Lumumba (2000) 115 mins

Account of Patrice Emery Lumumba rise to power after Congo's independence from Belgium in 1960 and his assassination the following year.

Cry Freedom 1987

With Kevin Kline and Denzel Washington.  
On the life and Death of Steve Biko in South Africa

The Blue Kite [aka Lan feng zheng] 1993.

Revolution from the view of a child in Beijing.

Xiu Xiu: The Sent Down Girl 1998, 99 mins.

Story of a city girl sent for "re-education" in the countryside.

Insignificance 1985, 110 mins.

Four icons of the 1950s -- essentially unnamed figures representing Joe DiMaggio, Joseph McCarthy, Marilyn Monroe, and Albert Einstein, meet in a NYC. hotel room in 1954.

October Sky 1999, 108 mins.

The true story of Homer Hickin, a working class boy who takes up rocketry after the launch of sputnik.

The Day the Earth Caught Fire 1961, 98 mins

Two atomic explosions have created a situation in which the earth has been knocked off orbit and is spiralling into the Sun. A classic of Cold War fear.

The Killing Fields 1984

Cambodia's holocaust.

And the Band Played On 1993 TV 141

Dramatization of Randy Shilts Book on the effects of the initial phases on the AIDS epidemic, especially in San Francisco.

Catholics [aka The Conflict] 1973 TV

Set in 1999, this is one of the few films to address the loss felt by many Catholics over the ending of the Latin Mass and the sudden "modernization" of Catholic theology. Howards gives a superb performance.

Gallipoli 1981

With Mel Gibson

Looks at the Australian forces in the British attack on the Turkish Gallipoli peninsula, one of the most bloody and pointless battles of the war.

The Last Emperor

A story about the last of the Qing emperors and the change of China from a monarchy to Communism from the emperor's view. (A Sollyhub Favorite)

The Great Dictator

The Charlie Chaplin classic

Stalin

HBO docu-drama on the life and death of Stalin