

Welcome to Global History I-H

- Summer Reading Assignment -
2022-2023 School Year

Course Description:

To prepare students to be global citizens, this course focuses on the common strands of history from the first advanced human civilizations to the Age of Discovery. Students will be introduced to the skills of the historian as well as different ideas about the meaning and definition of history. The major emphasis of the course will be on how civilizations around the globe developed in different ways. As connections and common assignments with the English 9H course will be at the heart of this course, students taking Global History I-H must also enroll in English 9H. This summer reading assignment is a requirement of the course. This course meets the graduation requirement for Social Studies 9.

Meet your History Teacher:

Mrs. Messina

Hi there! I am a history teacher here at *Housatonic Valley Regional High School*. I will be teaching your Global History course next year and am looking forward to having you in class. In addition to loving my job, I enjoy traveling whenever I can. Whether I am traveling abroad or doing day trips near home, you can often find me visiting historic sites or just enjoying the incredible outdoors. I hope you, too, are getting outside this Summer and taking advantage of all the natural beauty the Northwest Corner of Connecticut has to offer. In between your outdoor adventures and spending quality time with family and friends, I am also asking you to do some reading to prepare yourself for the themes of our upcoming Global History course.

I am so glad that you have decided to enroll in this co-taught course. Your English teacher (Ms. Monico) and I are looking forward to an exciting year full of new learning,

See you soon,



Mrs. Messina

Would you like to pick up a printout of this assignment and a copy of Prisoners of Geography?

Stop by the HVRHS Main Office and collect the assignment and one of the assigned books from Cindy Fuller. You will need to locate your own copy of Guns, Germs, and Steel.

The Main Office will be open:

June 20 - 24 and June 28 - 30 between 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

If you cannot stop by during these times please call ahead and make an appointment for pick up.

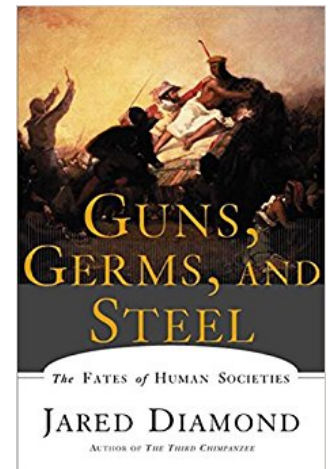
Call: 860-824-5123 ext. 1160.

The Summer Reading:

In order to prepare for our upcoming course in the Fall, you will be reading selections from two authors this summer.

Jared Diamond

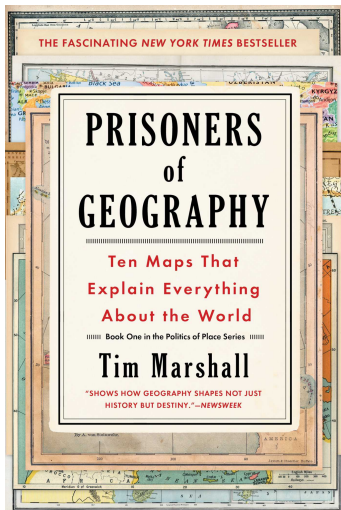
First, I am asking you to read selections from historian and geographer **Jared Diamond's** *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. According to Diamond, "*Guns, Germs, and Steel* seeks to answer **the biggest question of post-Ice-Age human history**: why Eurasian peoples, rather than peoples of other continents, became the ones to develop the ingredients of power (guns, germs, and steel) and to expand around the world. An extraterrestrial being visiting the Earth 14,000 years ago could have been forgiven for failing to predict this outcome, because the human populations of other continents apparently also possessed advantages. Africans enjoyed a huge head start, because Africa is the continent with by far the longest history of human occupation. North America is a big fertile continent, with the result that it supports the richest and most productive nation today. Australia provides by far the earliest evidence for human ability to cross wide water gaps, and some of the earliest widespread evidence for behaviorally modern humans. **Why, nevertheless, were Eurasians the ones to expand?**"



Please read: Preface, Prologue, Chapters 1, 5, 6, 11, and the Epilogue

Copies of the text may be available for pick-up at local libraries or bookstores (call ahead). At the time of this writing, used copies can be purchased online (on Amazon) for less than ten dollars.

Tim Marshall



In addition to selections from *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, I am also asking you to read the Introduction and Chapter 5 (Africa) from Tim Marshall's *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Map Maps that Explain Everything About the World* (2015).

According to the author, "**Maps have a mysterious hold over us.** Whether ancient, crumbling parchments or generated by Google, maps tell us things we want to know, not only about our current location or where we are going but **about the world in general.** And yet, when it comes to geo-politics, much of what we are told is generated by analysts and other experts who have neglected to refer to a map of the place in question. All leaders of nations are constrained by geography. In "one of the best books about geopolitics" (*The Evening Standard*), journalist Tim Marshall examines Russia, China, the US, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Japan, Korea, and Greenland and the Arctic—their weather, seas, mountains, rivers, deserts, and borders—to provide a context often missing from our political reportage: how

the **physical characteristics** of these countries affect their strengths and vulnerabilities and the decisions made by their leaders."

Please read: the Introduction and Chapter 5 (Africa); *optional:* Chapter 2 (China)

*You may pick up a copy of *Prisoners of Geography* at the Main Office at HVRHS (see page 1 for details). Copies of the text may also be available at local libraries or bookstores (call ahead) and online (Amazon).*

Taking notes while you read

While you read both of these works you are going to encounter unfamiliar terms and content that are *new to you*. Do not let that hold you back! Instead, please **record** what you do not know/is new to you/confused you. I have included a guide for your note-taking (see below).

Note-taking guide

**please recreate this note-taking guide digitally or on paper. Expand the size of the table as needed.

Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond			
What I already knew	What I have learned	Questions that I have	Vocabulary, terms, or concepts that I found <i>confusing</i> or are <i>unfamiliar</i> to me
<p>Ex:</p> <p>Many of the foods we eat today were domesticated from wild plant species that existed long ago.</p>	<p>Ex:</p> <p>“Of the 200,000 wild plant species, only a few thousand are eaten by humans, and just a few hundred of these have been more or less domesticated.” (132)</p>	<p>Ex:</p> <p>Which of the crops that humans still consume today are direct descendants from crops eaten in the ancient world?</p> <p>What did the domestication process of plants involve?</p>	<p><i>make a list here</i></p>

Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall			
What I already knew	What I have learned	Questions that I have	Vocabulary, terms, or concepts that I found <i>confusing</i> or are <i>unfamiliar</i> to me
<p>Ex:</p> <p>Africa is home to the Sahara, the world’s largest dry desert.</p>	<p>Ex:</p> <p>“there were few plants [on the African continent] willing to be domesticated, and even fewer animals. Much of the land consists of jungle, swamp, desert or steep-sided plateau, none of which lend themselves to the growing of wheat or rice, or sustaining herds of sheep...” (p. 118-119)</p>	<p>Ex:</p> <p>Did any of the food crops that humans domesticated originate on the African continent? If so, which ones?</p>	<p>Ex:</p> <p>NATO (Introduction, p. 3)</p>

The Summer Reading Assignment checklist.

Have I?

- read** each of the assigned chapters?
 - Guns, Germs, and Steel
 - Preface
 - Prologue
 - Chapter 1
 - Chapter 5
 - Chapter 6
 - Chapter 11
 - Epilogue
 - Prisoners of Geography
 - Introduction
 - Chapter 5 (Africa)
- taken notes** on each of the assigned chapters (typed OR handwritten notes will be accepted)

Due on the 1st day of school:

Your *notes* on the reading (typed OR handwritten)


What is the **rationale** for this assignment? (The *why?*)

Upon your return to school in August we will begin our Global History I course with an examination of some of the leading misconceptions about world history and the development of advanced human civilization. This will set the stage for the work we will do in our class over the course of the year. As part of this process we will examine the work of several authors who have written extensively on the subject. Two of these authors, Jared Diamond and Tim Marshall, you will get to know over the summer. The work of a third author that I have not yet assigned to you - Yuval Noah Harari - we will explore upon your return to school. If you would like to introduce yourself to the work of Harari over the summer that is *optional* but I have included two titles below if this is something you would like to preview.

Yuval Noah Harari

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind (2015)

Sapiens: A Graphic History, Volume 2: The Pillars of Civilization (2021)

 'Sapiens: A Graphic History - Volume 2 - Official Trailer'

When you return to school:

- ✓ We will **engage** in learning activities in which we explore the themes of the Summer Reading through collaborative activities (small-group exercises, discussion, etc)
- ✓ I will **answer** questions, **clarify** misconceptions, and **affirm** your understanding
- ✓ You will **learn** effective note-taking strategies -- skills that will be transferable to your other courses
- ✓ You will **think** critically about the definition of history and the reasons why it is studied