

DEAR AP WORLD CLASS OF 2007-08,

The major key to success in this class is reading the textbook. I'm sure if you are even bothering to read this packet, you've now heard that in every letter, and we aren't saying that because Gazdzik told us to, but I guarantee that if you think you can pass without doing so, you are wrong and you will fail the test. My personal experience goes as follows: I came into this class being a straight 'A' student, thinking the class would be another one of those where they try and scare you off, but then you end up sitting through it like a summer breeze. However, come to the end of first quarter, I found myself staring at a 'C'. Needless to say, my parents were not very happy with me, and I was extremely close to dropping the class altogether. However, I absolutely HATE quitting, so I ended up staying in the class through the end of the year, obviously since I'm writing you this letter, but I was able to raise my grade all the way up to a B+, and though I had gotten A's my whole life, I was the most proud of my B+. Though this class is a huge challenge, beating it is the most satisfying feeling in the world.

Probably the other two things that will help you the most for this class that I would have done differently are, 1) Don't dig yourself in a hole. This means, don't give yourself a bad grade in first quarter and expect to get a good enough grade to pull it up to an 'A', because take it from someone who knows, its hard enough to get 'Bs' in this class; and 2) Don't save the outside reading assignment till the last 2 nights of Christmas Break, just trust me, it's a hell of two days to read like 500 pages and write stuff up on every chapter.

I'm not trying to scare you off, because as I sit here, being done with the AP test, it is the best feeling in the world to know that I've accomplished something so difficult. I'm only trying to tell you to put in the work along the way, so your battle through this class is just a little bit easier than mine was.

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE. The textbook is not very hard to read once you get use to it.... Sometimes you can easily read two chapters in one night, that is if you really concentrate. Sometimes you can barely get through one page in one night. Manage your time wisely...If you do your work and know what is going on, you will definitely enjoy this class. You...will have a few essay tests, packets for most chapters and group projects. And ask Gazdzik about the ball. ...Don't give up after the first few tests. ... Just do your best and that will be enough to be the best. Important life lesson: Your Attitude Determines Your Altitude.

There really are no shortcuts here, PLEASE remember that! Skimming corners in this class will get you ABSOLUTELY no where! When studying for tests, make sure you know people's names, and what they do! That's going to be very essential. And know events, its not so much about knowing little details, but it's more than just the bigger picture as well.

Gazdzik will give you lots of freedom but don't abuse it. When he gives projects he leaves it up to the students how they want to present which makes it really creative. The best way to do well on a project is to have fun with it. If you are in this class now stay in it, don't drop it because it teaches you a lot of things that you will need to know for the future and if you finish the year in this class it will academically put you way ahead of all other sophomores who didn't. Good Luck.

Also helpful is having your own (book). That way, you can highlight important sections (and color on pictures you don't like). One thing I wish I had known before I started class is what to highlight. DON'T TURN AN ENTIRE PAGE GREEN! (or whatever color you choose to use.) Read the text carefully and pick out huge events, and important people. Really pay close attention to those six themes given at the beginning of the year. Essays are usually on one of them.

What I do know is that the best thing you can do for yourself is just do the work. That means if you are supposed to read the book, read it. If you don't read the book you're going to drop out, it is just that essential. When you read it make sure that you take notes. There is no worse feeling than getting to the end of the year and realizing that you have to wade through the entire book that you didn't enjoy reading the first time. When taking notes, take just enough notes to get the information, and not the entire book. Make sure to note important people and events, but also to notice general concepts, such as population growth or the treatment of women (a favorite on AP tests). It won't be easy but you can get an A, it just takes a lot of work.

First off, READ THE BOOK!! There is a 0% chance of even passing if you don't read this thing. Yes it's intimidating, yes it's pretty dull, yes there aren't a pictures on every page, and yes the chapters are long, but if you split up the reading to a few pages a night, you'll do fine. It's way better than reading 3 chapters the night before, and I'm speaking from experience. Yes, it's a big deal and there is a lot of work, but you must never lose a positive demeanor. Have fun with the material, I believe that will make you learn better, faster, and enjoy the class. Don't get super stressed out, that'll get you nowhere. Study with friends and have fun doing it. Do all this, and I'm sure you'll have a wonderful journey in AP World, and an experience you won't soon forget.

Keys to success in this class are reading and comprehension. Understand what is meant by anything you read or that Gazdzik says.

If you're a responsible person, this class should be easy for you. Make sure you keep up with the reading! Without having read the text, the lectures don't really make sense. Plus, when you fall behind you won't have the motivation to go back and read what you missed, which will hurt you when the national test comes.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING! If you can master to use your time wisely, then this class will be more stress free! That's my tip, because that's what I tried to do too.

If I had studied more and written (short, precise) notes for each chapter. There are 39 chapters, and if you do one page (just the front) per chapter, you'll find it easier to recall the information you've read. You can anticipate a lot of reading (don't let this scare you) especially at the beginning of the year. *It gets much better towards the end.* You can also anticipate *tangents* during class- you know; you're talking about the industrial revolution and all of the sudden you're discussing dark chocolate and Google. You can look forward to good discussions, throwing the ball into the basket, and playing review games. Keys to success are studying, reading, and over- viewing the main characteristics of the time period.... Have fun and challenge yourself- it's rewarding!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Have fun, and *if you put work into it, you will do well.*

In this class you can anticipate many days of studying and some very hard tests, but you can also look forward to many fun class periods because [of] Gazdzik's many discussions ... Some keys to success in this class along with working hard is making sure Gazdzik has enough coffee....And don't get too stressed out about the AP exam Gazdzik prepares you very well for it.

Sincerely,

AP World Class of 2006-07