

TJHSST Global Studies (teamed AP Language and Composition and AP US Government) Summer Reading Assignment 2017

All students enrolled in Global Studies (teamed AP Lang & AP Government) for the 2017-18 schoolyear should follow this assignment.

Assignment:

Read Kwame Anthony Appiah's *Cosmopolitanism* (see citation below), and **prepare reading notes** for an in-depth book discussion, according to the directions below.

As you read, treat your reading as a conversation with Appiah. Ask questions, make connections across the book, critique his argument, process, or style (critiques are not necessarily negative but are thoughtful), and connect to current global issues of which you are already aware. Consider the following questions as part of your note taking: What is Appiah arguing? What is he arguing against? What kinds of narrative strategies does he rely on to make his argument? Does he argue in way that makes him authoritative?

On the first day of class, turn in at least three single-spaced, typed pages of notes and three higher order thinking questions that you have from the reading and want to explore further. Place the questions in a separate section at the end of your assignment.

Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers by Kwame Anthony Appiah (non-fiction)

"The question was put to him what country he was from, and he replied, 'I am a citizen of the world'." —Diogenes (404-423 BC) as reported in Diogenes Laertius The Lives and Opinions of the Ancient Philosophers 3rd Century AD

"In an age of Al Qaeda—of terror and insurgent fundamentalisms—we have grown accustomed to thinking of the world as divided among warring creeds and cultures, separated from one another by a chasm of incomprehension. In *Cosmopolitanism*, Kwame Anthony Appiah, one of the world's leading philosophers, challenges us to redraw these imaginary boundaries, reminding us of the powerful ties that connect people across religions, culture and nations ... and of the deep conflicts within them.

Finding his philosophical inspiration in the Greek Cynics of the fourth century BC, who first articulated the cosmopolitan ideal—that all human beings were fellow citizens of the world—Appiah reminds us that cosmopolitanism underwrote some of the greatest moral achievements of the Enlightenment, including the 1789 declaration of the "Rights of Man" and Kant's proposal for a "league of nations." In showing us how modern philosophy has led us astray, Appiah also draws on his own experiences, growing up as the child of an English mother and a father from Ghana in a family spread across four continents and as many creeds.

Whether he's recalling characters from a second-century Roman comedy or a great nineteenth-century novel or reliving feasts at the end of Ramadan with his Moslem cousins in the kingdom of Ashanti, Appiah makes vivid the vision his arguments defend. These stories illuminate the tough questions that face us: How is it possible to consider the world a moral community when there's so much disagreement about the nature of morality? How can you take responsibility for every other life on the planet and still live a life of your own? Appiah explores such challenges to a global ethics as he develops an account that surmounts them.

The foreignness of foreigners, the strangeness of strangers, these things are real enough, but Appiah suggests that intellectuals and leaders, on the left and the right, have wildly exaggerated their significance. He scrutinizes the treacly celebration of "diversity," the hushed invocations of [t]he "Other," and the brow-furrowing talk of "difference." In developing a cosmopolitanism for our times, he defends a vision of art and literature as a common human possession, distinguishes the global claims of cosmopolitanism from those of its fundamentalist enemies, and explores what we do, and do not, owe to strangers. This deeply humane account will make it harder for us to think of the world as divided between the West and the Rest, between locals and moderns, between Us and Them." Source: <http://appiah.net/books/cosmopolitanism/>