AP 1st Quarter Project:  
CURRENT EVENTS AND CONTINUITIES

Your task is to present 4 news and feature items from the past few years (2017 to the present) that connect back to the period before 1200 CE in one world region. The intent is for you to become familiar with a particular part of the world’s past and present, then demonstrate your knowledge verbally and with visuals to a small group of classmates. You will have time over 3 days in a computer lab as well as for homework to research, create and present your project. **This project counts 50 points, and all work is individual work** – at no point should you be sharing any part of your work with any other student who is or has been enrolled in AP World.

In class, you will be given one of the following regions to use for this project:
- Latin America - everything south of the US border
- Europe and Russia
- Middle East and North Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South Asia
- East Asia
- Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania

You will conduct research based on the 6 Themes of AP World History:

**THEME 1: HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (ENV)**
The environment shapes human societies, and as populations grow and change, these populations in turn shape their environments.

**THEME 2: CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS AND INTERACTIONS (CDI)**
The development of ideas, beliefs, and religions illustrates how groups in society view themselves, and the interactions of societies and their beliefs often have political, social, and cultural implications.

**THEME 3: GOVERNANCE (GOV)**
A variety of internal and external factors contribute to state formation, expansion, and decline. Governments maintain order through a variety of administrative institutions, policies, and procedures, and governments obtain, retain, and exercise power in different ways and for different purposes.

**THEME 4: ECONOMIC SYSTEMS (ECN)**
As societies develop, they affect and are affected by the ways that they produce, exchange, and consume goods and services.

**THEME 5: SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND ORGANIZATION (SIO)**
The process by which societies group their members and the norms that govern the interactions between these groups and between individuals influence political, economic, and cultural institutions and organization.

**THEME 6: TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (TEC)**
Human adaptation and innovation have resulted in increased efficiency, comfort, and security, and technological advances have shaped human development and interactions with both intended and unintended consequences.

We will spend 1 day in computer lab 132 and 2 days in lab 104 on this project. On Wed. 9/18, you will research and take notes on index cards in Lab 132. In Lab 104 on Thurs. 9/19, you will work on your visual presentation, and on Fri. 9/20, you will present your project in small groups.

**Part A: Research**
For each theme, you need to find one article, program, or podcast. Do this 4 times: 1 source per theme (you have 6 themes to choose from; 2 will not be used). Articles will vary in length - the minimum length required is 1000 words. Podcasts, radio programs, documentary segments
and TV shows must last for at least 5 minutes. All current event sources must be dated 2017 or later.

2. Use a variety of major news sources for this project. Your choices include newspapers, magazines, TV news programs, documentaries, radio news programs, and podcasts – many of which you will find online. Recommended sources: PBS, NPR, BBC, The Atlantic, Smithsonian, National Geographic, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Time, U.S. News, The Wall Street Journal, various other news and feature magazines. (I promise I’m not trying to indoctrinate anyone via liberal media - when it comes to current events around the world, the sources above do a good job.) Notice that I did not suggest People, TMZ, the 5:30 local news, local papers like The Northwest Observer, SNL, Last Week Tonight, The Daily Show or any purely social media site. Random websites are also not a good idea; if you aren’t sure, email me the URL and ask. You will need to collect source information to be included in a Works Cited at the end of your presentation - see below for more details.

3. When you find a source, watch, read or listen. Take brief notes for yourself on 3x5 index cards, which you will get to use during the presentation. Don’t put more than 2 facts on any card so that you aren’t struggling to find your place while you present. Every word you write on index cards should be your own; absolutely no quotations or copying and pasting.

4. Once you are done taking notes, consider also recording your thoughts on the topic. Think about questions like: What is the most important aspect of this source? What about it was particularly interesting, surprising or eye-opening? How does this event connect to the AP World Theme?

5. Now consider what continuities from before the year 1200 are present in this region of the world that connect to this current event. You can pull any information from your binder without citing your sources; we all have access to that same information as it was taught to us. If you need to research more in-depth or find continuities with the past that have not been addressed in this course, then you will need to take notes on index cards and cite that information in the Works Cited the same as you do the current events sources. Use the table of contents/index in the Stearns textbook before you look at any website.

* Note: Be careful what online sources you use: encyclopedia-type sources (Wikipedia, Britannica, or any page with lots of underlined blue links), question forums, blogs and sites like like Weebly are not appropriate sources at the college level or for AP World. *

6. Repeat the above steps until you have covered the 4 Themes you have chosen.

Part B: Presentation
You will design a formal presentation based on your research. You have 2 options for this:
1) Create a Powerpoint or Prezi. It will need to be uploaded to Canvas so you can present your work in the computer lab.
2) Create a tri-fold board display or other free-standing display that can sit on one of the tables in the lab (without you holding it up).
Your focus will primarily be images for each of your 4 current events.
- Create a title slide that includes your region and your name.
- Start your first event slide with the number of the theme it matches (you don’t need to type out the name of the theme). Each current event gets its own slide.
- You need a minimum of 2 and no more than 5 images to represent each current event (for a total of 8-20 images). Color images are preferred over black and white.
- You are allowed only 5 words per slide for categories/captions on your display.

- You must create a Works Cited that includes full MLA-style citations for all factual information, located after your 4 current events/at the bottom of the tri-fold board.
- Use Citation Machine if you don’t know or can’t remember how to do MLA citations: http://www.citationmachine.net/mla - Use this for all current event sources/articles. Include the URL at the end of the citation even if Citation Machine doesn’t prompt you to do that. Remember to alphabetize your sources by author’s last name or first major word in the title.
- For all images used in your presentation, create a slide that has the image URLs in the order they appear in the presentation (you only need the URL for images - you don’t have to do MLA style citations for those).

You will present each of your current events to small groups multiple times during the class period:
- Give basic information about the event and its importance in that region of the world or why it is so interesting/surprising to you. Explain how it relates to the AP World Theme.
- Connect it to historical events, processes, people or circumstances from before 1200 CE. Deep connections are better than shallow ones. I will post an example of how to do this on my website to guide you.
- Repeat for the other 4 events.
- Ask your audience for questions. If they have none, ask which events they thought were most interesting or most connected to what we have studied thus far in AP World.

Your presentation must be between 8 and 10 minutes, including the time for questions. You need to rehearse this part so you will know whether you are presenting too much or too little information. You will speak multiple times to different groups within that class period.

All Powerpoints and Prezis must be uploaded to Canvas no later than 11:59 pm on Thurs 9/19, and all tri-fold displays must be brought to my classroom no later than 8:30 am on Fri. 9/20. This is so I can verify you have everything you need before presentations begin. We will have class in Lab 104 on Fri. 9/20 so that students who need access to computers to present can have them. All tri-fold displays will be taken from and returned to my classroom until grading for the project is complete.
**Project Rubric**

Work during lab time  Absent during any lab days?  Y  N

___ Used time well, stayed on task, asked teacher for help as needed

Tri-Fold/Powerpoint/Prezi On time?  Y  N

___ Assembled by deadline & quickly set up or saved correctly to Canvas

___ Creativity demonstrated: high quality color pictures, 8-20 images

___ Neat & organized; not overloaded or too much blank space

___ Directions followed; categories/captions are no more than 5 words apiece, helpful

___ Works Cited at the end:
   1) Full citations for factual sources, correctly MLA-formatted, in ABC order?  Y  N
   2) A separate slide for image URLs?  Y  N

___ Variety of quality sources used for current events, including sources on pre-1200 if needed

Presentation

___ Starts with region clearly identified and name

___ Begins with an introduction that is better than “My project is about” or “I did my project on”

For each of the 4 events:

___ Basic information covered; importance or interest given

___ Clearly and deeply connects to AP theme  1  2  3  4  5  6

___ Speaks clearly and loudly enough, in a sophisticated manner, is well prepared

___ Does not read from index cards or poster/powerpoint/Prezi, has good eye contact

___ Answers audience’s questions/asks audience about interest or connections

___ Within the time limit of 8-10 minutes

___ 3x5 index cards submitted at end of presentation

Score ______(out of 50)