

To get you started thinking ahead about AP European History, there is a summer reading assignment.

1) You are to read Pico de Mirandola's *Oration on the Dignity of Man*. This is a classic Renaissance view of man. The oration is about 3 pages long and the version I like is at Washington State's website. The *Oration* is found easily elsewhere on the internet. Answer the following questions:

According to Pico,

1. Why is man such a wonderful creation of God?
2. What has God given man?
3. How is man different from all other creatures, even the angels?

2) Read Thomas a Kempis' *The Imitation of Christ*, Book 1, Chapters 1 and 2; Book 3, Chapters 8, 13, and 15. I like the online version at the Catholic Treasury site. You can get a fantastic hard copy translation by William C. Creasy [the Creasy translation is best!] at Amazon for about \$5. *The Imitation* represents a late medieval view of man. Answer this question: What does a Kempis say should be our posture before God?

3) Write a 4 paragraph essay comparing Pico de Mirandola's *Oration on the Dignity of Man* with Thomas a Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*. First paragraph: how these two books differ; Second paragraph: evidence of Pico's belief about man; Third paragraph: evidence of Thomas' belief about man; Fourth paragraph: your opinion about who is right and why.

4) Look at these paintings/sculptures/buildings and be able to tell them by sight:

Albrecht Durer's *Self-Portrait* (1500, at age 28)

Leonardo DaVinci's *The Last Supper*, *Mona Lisa*, *Vitruvian Man*

Michelangelo (Buonarotti)'s *Creation of Adam*, *The Last Judgment*, *David*, *Pieta*, *Moses*

Raphael, *The School of Athens*

Donatello, *David* (the bronze one, not the marble)

Jan Van Eyck, *The Arnolfini Wedding*

Sandro Boticelli, *The Birth of Venus*, *Primavera*

Filippo Brunelleschi, *The Florence Cathedral* (Il Duomo di Firenze)

Andrea Mantegna, *Lamentation of Christ*

Hans Holbein, *Portrait of Henry VIII*

Piero della Francesca, *Federico de Montefeltro* ( Duke of Urbino)

The essay on *Oration on the Dignity of Man* and on *The Imitation of Christ* must be turned in the first day of class.

Also, be ready day one for an art history quiz on recognition of the art works above.

Looking forward to having you in AP Euro this coming year!

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!

Mr. W