

Summer Reading Assignment: AP Seminar

AP Seminar is the first course in the AP Capstone. The class is designed to teach you how to ask meaningful questions, understand difficult texts and ideas, evaluate credibility and multiple perspectives, synthesize different ideas, and communicate good ideas in multiple formats: research papers, argumentative essays, and multimedia presentations. This year's summer reading assignment is designed to compliment your English reading assignment and prepare you for our first unit's theme: happiness.

You will be reading *The Great Gatsby* for English III, a novel set in the roaring 20's about the pursuit of the American Dream, wealth, and conmen. The novel asks important hard questions about the American Dream, pleasure, and wealth and status, all topics still pertinent to American society in 2020. Some of the materials our first unit will require you to read include a study on emotions and wealth, a scientific study about possible connections between genetics and happiness, an essay about Disney Land, and others.

So, I want you to find a nonfiction book that will compliment your reading of *The Great Gatsby*. Here are a few suggestions:

- *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *The American Dream: A Short History of an Idea That Shaped a Nation* by Jim Cullen
- *Anything Goes: A Biography of the Roaring Twenties* by Lucy Moore
- *Fool For Love: F. Scott Fitzgerald* by Scott Donaldson

You may choose another nonfiction book to read, but its topic should be prompted by your reading of *The Great Gatsby*, and connected logically to its themes, characters, or setting. After reading both books, write summaries of both in a Google Doc. Label this Google Doc "Annotated Bibliography," and be prepared to add to it as the year goes on!