

Honors Multicultural Studies Summer Reading Assignment

Summer reading is a key component of the honors curriculum for Multicultural Studies. Completion of a fifth text and written analysis over the summer reduces the burden of honors work during the year and contributes to a more in-depth understanding of the course's themes.

The text covers international affairs (the rise of China) and is a radical departure from the "history" that you're used to reading. (However, familiarity and ease with Foner will help.) The text is a monograph written by a professional journalist, which means that it seeks to cover one subject in depth, rather than address a breadth of material. It is a thesis-driven text that parallels texts we will read during the school year.

Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Faith and Truth in the New China by *New Yorker* writer Evan Osnos. Click the link <https://us.macmillan.com/books/9780374535278> for the publisher's description of the text; click below for a review of Osnos' text

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/review-age-of-ambition-chasing-fortune-truth-and-faith-in-the-new-china-by-evan-osnos/2014/05/16/9b122786-cef0-11e3-937f-d3026234b51c_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.3a53b58eb822 for an overview of the key themes. The book is available in many formats through iTunes and Amazon.

https://www.amazon.com/Age-Ambition-Chasing-Fortune-Truth/dp/0374535272/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1432732115&sr=1-1&keywords=age+of+ambition

- *What is the thesis of the text? (1 paragraph argument summary)*

- Essay: Write one paragraph in answer to the following questions:

1. What are the underlying forces/factors in China's rise?
2. Choose one of the individuals featured in the text and explain his/her significance as a symbol of the new China.
3. What parallels does Osnos draw between America/Americans and China/Chinese?
4. What are the central themes of the argument?

After completing the paragraphs above, write an introductory paragraph for the essay.

The essay is due upon return to SMS. Completion of the honors essay during the summer is a prerequisite for the honors course. Plan to submit the essay to Turnitin.com on the first day of classes.

Email me with any questions!

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