

Summer Reading Assignment

Assignment due date:

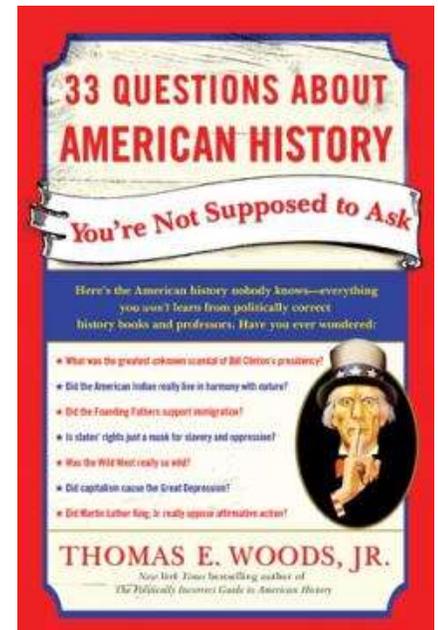
Tuesday, September 5, 2017 (First day back at DMA)

Book: 33 Questions About US History You're Not Supposed To Ask

Author: Dr. Thomas E. Woods, Jr.

Purchase: Any bookstore, but I recommend Amazon and getting it used

- *It is no crime to be ignorant of economics, which is, after all, a specialized discipline and one that most people consider to be a 'dismal science.' But it is totally irresponsible to have a loud and vociferous opinion on economic subjects while remaining in this state of ignorance.*” - **Murray Rothbard**
- *"The first lesson of economics is scarcity: there is never enough of anything to fully satisfy all those who want it. The first lesson of politics is to disregard the first lesson of economics."* - **Thomas Sowell**
- *"Democracy and liberty are not the same. Democracy is little more than mob rule, while liberty refers to the sovereignty of the individual."* - **Walter E. Williams**
- *"The truth, indeed, is something that mankind, for some mysterious reason, instinctively dislikes. Every man who tries to tell it is unpopular, and even when, by the sheer strength of his case, he prevails, he is put down as a scoundrel."*
- **H.L. Mencken**



Welcome to Honors Historical Economics! The purpose of this course is to provide cadets with the knowledge and decision-making tools necessary for understanding how society organizes its limited resources to satisfy its unlimited wants. While you will learn tons and tons of valuable material in class on various topics related in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International Economics, and Economic History, the sheer breadth of the discipline of Historical Economics is so vast and nearly impossible to cover in a single semester. With this in mind, it will be extremely helpful for the Honors Historical Economics cadet to come into class with some already developed content knowledge ready to go on day one of class.

With this in mind, you will be assigned to read the New York Times Bestseller by Dr. Thomas E. Woods, Jr. 33 Questions About US History You're Not Supposed to Ask. In reading this fascinating and controversial book, some of your previously held opinions or prior knowledge will be challenged. This is a remarkably important part of one's academic experience; to be challenged with new information, and to reevaluate one's views based off of this new information. In doing this, we will be much better equipped to reach our goals for the course, namely that cadets are fully able to see how economics is an integral part of their everyday lives, how studying US History through an economic framework is very illuminating, and how economics has played a major role in the creation of the world we live in today.

To make sure this book is covered well there will be a summer writing assignment about it. This is a major assignment (**it counts as a full test grade**), and will have a major impact on your first term grade. **If you do not bring in the project the first day of school, a letter grade will be deducted for each day late. As a like to say in class, "Be The Hammer, Not The Nail!"**

Instructions:

1. **In a typed out, 12 font, Times New Roman, 1.5 spaced format you will use complete sentences** to answer the following prompt.
2. Cadets should write in paragraph form about each chapter selected (**remember a formal paragraph consists of 4-6 sentences**). **Grammar and spelling do count**, so do not shirk on looking over the material or on reviewing for grammatical and spelling mistakes.
3. You should include many specific references to information you learned in the text. Be sure to cite this correctly, for example if you found a helpful quotation on page 93, you would write at the end of the quotation (Woods 93).

The Prompt:

1. **Economics: Of the 33 Questions, which 3 chapters challenged/enlightened you the most in terms of Economics knowledge that you may have already had? In answering this, do the following.**
 - a. State each chapter you selected, and sum up the claims made by Dr. Woods in each of the chapters you selected. Be specific, providing plenty of examples from the text.
 - b. After summing up the claims, write regarding how your prior knowledge/opinion of some specific economic issue addressed in the chapter you selected was challenged or enlightened in some way. Be specific, using examples from the text! How were you challenged? Has your thinking been changed on the issue compared to what you used to think? If so, explain how. If not, that is OK, but be sure to explain why, justifying your own view in the process!
 - c. With each chapter you select, you should respond with **AT LEAST 2 paragraphs**.
2. **History: Of the 33 Questions, which 3 chapters challenged/enlightened you the most in terms of Historical knowledge that you may have already had? In answering this, do the following.**
 - a. State each chapter you selected, and sum up the claims made by Dr. Woods in each of the chapters you selected. Be specific, providing plenty of examples from the text.
 - b. After summing up the claims, write regarding how your prior knowledge/opinion of some specific historical issue addressed in the chapter you selected was challenged or enlightened in some way. Be specific, using examples from the text! How were you challenged? Has your thinking been changed on the issue compared to what you used to think? If so, explain how. If not, that is OK, but be sure to explain why, justifying your own view in the process!
 - c. With each chapter you select, you should respond with **AT LEAST 2 paragraphs**.
3. **Political Science: Of the 33 Questions, which 3 chapters challenged/enlightened you the most in terms of Political knowledge that you may have already had? In answering this, do the following.**
 - a. State each chapter you selected, and sum up the claims made by Dr. Woods in each of the chapters you selected. Be specific, providing plenty of examples from the text.
 - b. After summing up the claims, write regarding how your prior knowledge/opinion of some specific political issue addressed in the chapter you selected was challenged or enlightened in some way. Be specific, using examples from the text! How were you challenged or enlightened? What did you used to think? Has your thinking been changed on the issue compared to what you used to think? If so, explain how. If not, that is OK, but be sure to explain why, justifying your own view in the process!
 - c. With each chapter you select, you should respond with **AT LEAST 2 paragraphs**.

Note:

- **You should be selecting 9 distinct chapters.**
 - In other words, **you cannot only analyze three chapters from the book**, saying you were challenged economically, historically, and politically on each of them.
 - While the above situation may be the case in many of the chapters (often times these 3 subjects are extremely intertwined), **you must select 9 distinct chapters to analyze.**

Category	0-3	4-6	7-9	10
Content/Use of Sources & Organization	Content is written in a below average manner, does not provide specific examples and quotations. Quotations are not used effectively or correctly. Below- Average reflections on new learnings/insights from the text.	Content is written in an average manner, does not provide very specific examples and quotations. Quotations may not be used effectively and correctly. Average reflections on new learnings/insights from the text.	Content is well-written and original incorporating some specific examples and quotations. Most quotations are used effectively and correctly. Above-average reflections on new learnings/insights from the text.	Content is sophisticated and original, incorporating many specific examples and quotations. Quotations are used effectively and correctly. Excellent reflections on new learnings/insights from the text.

1st Chapter selected: _____ **out of 10 pts**

2nd Chapter selected: _____ **out of 10 pts**

3rd Chapter selected: _____ **out of 10 pts**

4th Chapter selected: _____ **out of 10 pts**

5th Chapter selected: _____ **out of 10 pts**

6th Chapter selected: _____ **out of 10 pts**

7th Chapter selected: _____ **out of 10 pts**

8th Chapter selected: _____ **out of 10 pts**

9th Chapter selected: _____ **out of 10 pts**

Meets length requirement/grammatically sound _____ **out of 10 pts**

Score: _____ **out of 100 points**