



Upper School Humanities
DLI: Cultural Calamity and American Resolve
Summer Reading 2018

Welcome to the Deep Learning Initiative **Cultural Calamity and American Resolve**. As I explained during our Upper School curriculum meeting, the course will concentrate on three distinct periods of turbulence in America and how with a pervasive mood of nationalism, effective governmental leadership, and the sustained determination of the American people, the U.S. overcame its setbacks and retained its preeminence on the world stage.

The three periods we will focus our study on will be:

1. The Great Depression and World War II (fall)
2. The decade of the 1960's (winter)
3. The attack of September 11, 2001 and the years immediately following (spring)

At the beginning of each trimester, I will introduce the topic. This overview should generate interest and hopefully peak your curiosity and help formulate the creation of a “thread” that will guide a more in-depth investigation. This will be the focal point throughout the trimester and form the basis of your thesis where, as always, you must provide evidence to support your opinions and conclusions.

I have identified three books that will drive many of our class discussions and challenge the presumptions about our world, past, present and future, while providing the opportunity to reevaluate our responsibilities and capabilities:

1. **On Tyranny**, by *Daniel Snyder* (fall)
2. **Man's Search For Meanings** by *Viktor Frankl* (winter)
3. **Animal Farm**, by *George Orwell* (spring)

I am asking that you purchase these books and read, or at least familiarize yourself with them. They are short, inexpensive and powerful. I look forward to discussing these books, as we delve deeper into them during the year and hearing you opinions while we learn together.

If you have questions, please e-mail me at henry.cataldo@woosterschool.org. Have a great summer.