

Advanced Placement United States History

Summer Assignment 2016

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Welcome to Advanced Placement U.S. History! The 2016-2017 academic year will be a very busy one as we prepare for the Advanced Placement exam in May 2017. APUSH is a rigorous college-level course that will require extensive background knowledge in U.S. History and well-developed historical analysis skills.

To prepare for the active school year, you are required to complete the summer assignment listed below. It is broken into 2 parts. First, a course overview where you must go through the College Board website to get an idea of the course scope and sequence. Second, is a book report where you will choose a novel and write an analysis of its contents and historical context. This summer assignment will be due on the first day of school and will be worth a test grade.

PART 1: Course Overview

Use this link to open documents to complete this part of the assignment:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-united-states-history>

Open and read the U.S. History Course and Exam Description

1. **Historical Thinking Skills** (Pgs. 7-9): Read through the 9 skills that you must use to think like a historian. For each skill you must:
 - Summarize the skill in your own words.
 - Explain an example of how you think you might use this skill in the course (Either in class or on the exam).
2. **Thematic Learning Objectives** (Pgs. 10-21): Read through the 7 learning objectives. For each objective:
 - Summarize in your own words.
 - Explain which objective you think you will do best and why.
 - Explain which objective you think you might struggle and why.
3. **Historical Time Periods** (Pgs. 22-89): Read through the 9 historical time periods. Create a SIMPLE outline for each time period. Try to include as many historical figures and events as possible.
4. **Exam Overview** (Pgs. 112 - 146): Read through the exam structure and sample questions. Answer EACH of these questions in no less than a paragraph:
 - How are the historical thinking skills used in the test structure, questions, and rubrics?
 - Learning objectives?
 - Time periods?

PART 2: Book Report

1) Choose 1 of the novels from the list below to read over the summer.

- *A Farewell to Arms* – Ernest Hemingway
- *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – Mark Twain
- *Beloved* – Toni Morrison
- *Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee* – Dee Brown
- *Gone with the Wind* – Margaret Mitchell
- *Grapes of Wrath* – John Steinbeck
- *Leaves of Grass* – Walt Whitman
- *Little Women* – Louisa May Alcott
- *On the Road* – Jack Kerouac
- *Roots* – Alex Haley
- *The Jungle* – Upton Sinclair
- *The Scarlet Letter* – Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin* – Harriet Beecher Stowe
- *Walden* – Henry David Thoreau

2) Carefully read the entire book.

3) Complete an essay that answers the following prompt: **How did this novel impact society and/or reflect the time period it represents?** Be sure to include plot points, character analysis, and themes from the novel to answer the prompt more thoroughly. Typically, essays for APUSH follow a 5-paragraph essay format (with an introduction, thesis statement, body paragraphs, and conclusion. Some essays will be much longer.) Focus on organizing your thoughts and arguing your point. Do NOT use “I” anywhere in your essay. Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, size 12 font (default font- nothing too fancy or hard to read). Be sure to proofread for spelling, grammar, and mechanics. You are to do this assignment on your own. No group work. Plagiarism will result in a zero.

4) Type a 1 page reaction to your reading. The intent of this reaction paper is for you to develop an argument (an attitude, perhaps?) about what you have learned about the time period of American history represented in the novel. Your response should be very personal with the idea that what you learned will help you develop a much broader perspective of U.S. History as the course develops throughout the year. **Please also include in this paper your expectations, concerns, and questions about this APUSH course.**

Part 3: Helpful Hints (not to be turned in)

- **Learn your geography.** Geography is going to play an important part of this course. Do you know all 50 states? Learn them. Can you find the major mountain ranges of the US on a map? What about rivers, oceans and lakes? Memorize them! The more you know about geography the farther ahead you will be.
- **Watch history movies!** Do you really need to watch Ironman 3 again? Of course not! If you have a free evening – try to watch something historical. Visit <http://www.historyplace.com/films/index.html> for suggestions, or type —good history movie into Google and see what comes up!
- **Memorize the Presidents.** You will need to do this for the AP exam in May, so you may as well get a jump start. Try to do them in blocks of 3: Washington, Adams, Jefferson (pause) Madison, Monroe, Adams ...

- **Enjoy your summer.** These few assignments should not consume all of your free time this summer. Go to the beach, take a hike, or stroll the mall with your friends. You will wish for that free time during the school year!
- **Explore history.** If you take a vacation, see if you can stop at an historical marker along the way. Or, do a little research about the place you are visiting. Take the time to start thinking historically. History is all around you if you allow yourself to see it!
- **Become an informed citizen.** Read the newspaper. Watch CSPAN. Try to keep updated on the world's events.