

Advanced Placement United States History Summer Assignment

Welcome to Advanced Placement United States History for the 2018-2019 school year! I am excited to start this journey with you and the new way we will be doing it this summer.

Firstly, I want to explain why you are working over the summer, as this is not a punishment, but a necessity. You will have some reading assignments over the summer, or we will not have enough time to cover the content in the class. As we grow as a country each year, the College Board keeps adding to the content, and it is simply too much to cover in the regular school year. We work at a steady pace, but this allows us to take enough time to finish the content. This year we will be doing the classwork on Google Classroom, so I will give you instructions on how to join our summer class later in this letter.

APUSH is a college-level introductory course, which examines the political, diplomatic, intellectual, cultural, social, and economic history of the United States from 1491 to the present. Varieties of instructional approaches will be used and a college level textbook will be supplemented by a selection of primary and secondary sources.

The Course requirements assume a high level of interest and competence. Students should expect, for example, that the reading and writing load will be heavier than most high school history classes. It requires seriously committed students who are willing to work far above the level required in a “regular” high school history class. I expect everyone in this class to come prepared all the time, to participate all the time in a constructive and cooperative manner, and to shoulder the responsibility for the class work in a mature and diligent way. This is a difficult course with potentially great benefits. You should also anticipate that a course like this one demands that students develop and sharpen their analytical thinking, writing, and reading skills.

The two biggest requirements is that students need to be willing and able – “**willing**” to be motivated to study and learn on the college level and “**able**” to keep up with the course because it moves rapidly and covers a lot of material. AP U.S. History will give you the background and preparation that will prove beneficial in a wide range of college courses. By taking the APUSH course and the AP exam at the end the course, your college(s) will be able to recognize that you have learned college-level material and deserve credit and /or advanced placement for meeting that challenge.

The redesigned APUSH course will allow me to (1) use a variety of teaching strategies to address differentiated instruction needs that apply to different learning styles (2) use a variety of instruction methods including guided discussions, projects, and cooperative learning activities. Students will be encouraged to not only focus on historical events but to relate their learning to present-day political, cultural, and world events. Furthermore, students will also see the broader picture of history by looking at local/regional historical events and their relationship to the broader historical picture. Along the way, there will also be time for topics with some in-depth analysis. “Essential questions” will be used to frame class discussions and themes in unit study. The essential questions will be used to guide reading and writing assignments. My overall goal is for students to gain an appreciation for the historical narrative and to see connections of the past to the present.

I will need you to join Google Classroom before the end of the school year. Please make sure you use your Clovis Unified Google email when you join. The code for the class you will be joining is 9jhdrrp. Please do this before school is out, you will be getting instructions and your summer assignment on this site. Please check out a textbook, **Give Me Liberty**, from the library on June 6 and 7th after school only or June 11-13th from 7:30 AM to 3:00PM.

If you have any questions, please see me in room 104 or email me.

Mrs. Tessler