

## AP U.S. History 2020-21

### Introduction and Summer Assignment

#### About AP US History

An Advanced Placement course in American History makes demands on a student equivalent to those of an introductory college survey course. Students are expected to read historical material critically and analytically. It is crucial that students in this AP course be able to evaluate primary sources and historical interpretations. Additionally, students must demonstrate the ability to interpret and apply knowledge gained from maps, tables, graphs and political cartoons. Most important is the constant practice and repetition in the writing of well-organized essays in which the argument offered is supported with relevant evidence and analysis.

The ultimate goal of this class is to prepare each student to master the AP U.S. History exam given nationally in May. In order to be successful students must develop the self-discipline and determination to master an immense body of knowledge and analytical writing. This course is rigorous and students should prepare themselves to be challenged intellectually. In order to achieve a successful score on the AP test, students will be required to have knowledge of a tremendous amount of content and must be able to discuss it verbally and in written form at a very high level. Please understand that grades in this course may not reflect what you have achieved in the past. Make learning and growing a priority and the grades for the course will usually take care of themselves.

The workload of the course is rigorous but not unmanageable with the right attitude and approach to the class. Students should be prepared to commit to approximately an hour of study a night, including weekends. Students must master time management in order to stay on pace with the class.

## AP UNITED STATES HISTORY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2020-21

### *Assignments are due the first day of school.*

#### Assignment 1: Review Books

**A. You are REQUIRED to have a copy of the following review book. Please be certain to directly contact the publisher in order to obtain the review book. Contact information is listed below:**

#### **United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination**

by [John J. Newman](#) (Author), [John M. Schmalbach](#) (Author)

- **Publisher:** Amsco School Publications. ([www.perfectionlearning.com](http://www.perfectionlearning.com) or 1-800-831-4190)
- **BE SURE** to acquire the **newest edition** since the **test format changed beginning with the 2015 test.**
- Read the first **3** chapters, hi-light, annotate, and complete the multiple choice questions for each chapter. Write these answers on a separate sheet of paper to turn in.

Have them with you the first day of classes.

**B. It is highly recommended that you purchase **The Princeton Review** book as well. Purchase the newest edition with as many practice tests as possible. Exposure to more questions is beneficial for you.**

This can be purchased at most book stores or online.

## **Assignment 2: Essay**

You will need to purchase a copy of *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War* by Nathaniel Philbrick.

One of the seven themes in the AP US History course is that of an American Identity. Essentially, how was the American identity formed and how and why has it changed over time? As defined by AP: “This theme focuses on how and why definitions of American and national identity and values have developed, as well as on related topics such as citizenship, foreign policy, assimilation, and American exceptionalism.”

*Mayflower* is a narrative history set in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 17th century. Philbrick focuses on the relationship between the English colonists and the native Americans and their collaboration and conflicts leading to King Philip’s War(1676).

**PROMPT: Using evidence from *Mayflower*, analyze how an American identity developed in New England in the 17th century.**

You will be required to write a 2 1/2-3 page essay over the above book, using it as the primary source of information to complete the essay. The essay requirements are as follows:

**1. Your essay should have a clearly written thesis.** If you are unclear on what a thesis is, or what makes a good versus bad thesis, please take the time to research this. A good thesis usually yields a good essay. A bad thesis, or lack of a thesis, always results in a poor essay. Thesis construction is an essential skill to perform well in AP US History. Underline your thesis to make it clear to the reader what it is.

**2. The essay should be 2 1/2-3 pages in length, typewritten, double spaced, using standard fonts.** Please avoid manipulation of fonts, margins, point sizes to artificially increase the size of your essay. This will result in a reduced grade if detected.

**3. Support your essay with specific information from the text.** Generalizations in support of generalizations do not make convincing arguments. Provide specific information from your readings to support your thesis. Make it obvious to the reader that you have actually read the summer assignment. The book is broken up into Parts I-IV and covers a 55 year span. You must provide a minimum of two(2) supports from each of these parts, 8 total, to reinforce your analysis.

We have created a Google Classroom for the Summer Assignment we would like you to join.  
Google Classroom Code: **v1bfgnv**

If you have questions feel free to contact one of us.

### **Contact Information:**

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