

Welcome to AP US history. I am pleased that you have chosen to accept the challenge of this course. The AP U.S. history course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students will learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP U.S. History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format. In order to cover the essential topics in U.S. history during the school term we need to lay a foundation over the summer break for the first periodizations: Unit 1: 1491-1607 and Unit 2: 1607-1754.

YOU CAN'T REALLY DO HISTORY WITHOUT READING. IF YOU DON'T READ, YOU WON'T LEARN. IF YOU DON'T LEARN, WHY BOTHER TAKING THIS COURSE?

The texts and materials for this course are:

The American YAWP: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook

The text is available ONLINE at <https://www.americanyawp.com/>

We will have hard bound copies available in our classroom for distribution on the first day of school.

We will also have copies of the review text for distribution:

Advanced Placement United States History, 4th Edition, AMSCO, John Newman.

For our summer assignment, please access The American YAWP link above.

Reading and Vocabulary DEVELOPMENT Assignment: FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS!

1. **Students should read the PREFACE to the text.**
2. **Students should read Chapters 1 and 2 in THE YAWP and WRITE RESPONSES TO the Guiding Reading Questions attached along with this summer assignment**

description. Be prepared to discuss these topics and extend your understanding through whole group conversations and primary source readings in class.

This assignment includes READING AND GQ work for two chapters:

Chapter 1: Indigenous Americans

Chapter 2: Colliding Cultures

3. **Students should familiarize themselves with the key terms from each chapter as we cover the curriculum.**

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR TEACHER ABOUT SUMMER WORK and IN CLASS ASSESSMENTS on SUMMER WORK:

During the first week of class we will have a short response quiz over the materials from the summer assignment and a vocabulary quiz. You will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the ideas, events, key terms and personalities associated with the material from the summer reading assignments. You should determine the best method to develop your key terms knowledge. Creating your own QUIZLET might be a good method, OR you could list the terms at the bottom of your GQs and DEFINE and DESCRIBE the significance of them there.

DO NOT SIMPLY google these questions or use AI to generate GENERALIZED responses. **Engage with the TEXT, THINK about what you READ, WRITE authentic responses.**

All assignments should be submitted on the second day of school, TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026. Students who fail to submit their summer assignments will be placed in HONORS US HISTORY for the school term. Your work can be typed or hand-written.

The AP US history is given in digital format using Digital Blue Book, just like the SAT. We will have access to Digital Blue Book to practice our historical writing skills and our MCQ exam taking skills throughout the year.

The new schoolwide and subject specific AI policies will be added our student handbook and be covered in our class syllabus. We will have a thorough discussion about them with school begins.

COURSE MATERIALS

A 2" binder for handouts and other materials distributed in class.

A 5-subject notebook Students need to develop an appreciation for the value of AUTHENTIC NOTE TAKING, you should have this handy for class and for your independent reading assignments WHEN NOTES ARE REQUIRED to write down important, new information that you need to understand.