

APUSH Summer Assignment 2020-21

Mr. Holtje

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Welcome to AP U.S. History 2020 – 2021

My name is Luke Holtje and I am the AP U.S. History (better known as APUSH) instructor at Girard Academic Music Program. You are coming out of a very different and difficult end-of-year. It may have been confusing, exhausting, and difficult. However, Our time is very limited during the school year. Thus, we have to begin our studies over the summer. My first concern was your mental health. After the third quarter, we are all faced with unique circumstances that may have long-lasting effects on you and your family. Second, your access to materials may be limited. Therefore I have attached PDF copies of the chapters you will need for the summer.

What you should know and understand: This course is designed to be **rigorous** and should be approached with active involvement. APUSH is a college prep course equivalent to a United States History course at most universities. **Please understand it *will* be taught at the level of a college course. Please understand this course *will* focus on the AP exam in May. Please understand that you will do work on your own, in your own time where it will feel like at times Mr. Holtje isn't teaching anything.**... Reading assignments will come weekly; the complete history of the United States is a large body of information! There will be weekly reading quizzes over each chapter. **Time management will be necessary to succeed not only in APUSH but with your other classes as well.** Do not fall behind! It is essential that you read, study, *read*, listen, *read*, discuss, *read*, and take thorough notes independently AND from class lectures. Reading the text is essential for success in this course and success on the National AP Exam.

The National AP United States History Exam is scheduled for one of the days in the first two weeks of May (time/date tbd) The exam is 3 hours and 30 minutes in length and consists of 55 multiple-choice questions, four short answer questions, one long essay, and a document-based essay. Grades of 1 – 5 are earned. Many universities and colleges award up to six hours of History credit if a score of 3 or higher is attained, others require a 4 or 5.

Parents and/or Guardians,

You should be extremely proud of your student. Hopefully this letter will help you and your family understand the demands of APUSH. It is our hope that this class will not only help your student do well on the National AP exam earning college credit, but to also learn skills that will be useful to succeed in other classes at Fort Worth Country Day, in college and beyond. Remind your student not to fall behind. Help them to find an effective method for dealing with stress.

Sincerely,

Mr. Holtje

2020 - 2021 APUSH SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Step One:

Read and take notes over the first 4 chapters of your American Pageant textbook. There is no substitute for reading in APUSH. Notes will be checked the first day of class for completion and a grade. The notes should be handwritten. Princeton University has done studies that prove that handwriting information is more effective in the learning process than typing. Please read the note-taking tips PDF.

Step Two:

Create a “**one-pager**” for **each** chapter. A one-pager is a double-page (front and back of your paper) analysis of your reading. Each chapter review will count as an individual assignment.

Directions:

1. Select four quotations from the chapter and write them on the page. Use them as a springboard to explore your own ideas about the chapter. Write your own interpretation or response to the quotes.
2. Use visual images (photocopies) from the chapter, computer, or draw to create a central focus for your page. Include your feelings or thoughts regarding what you have read and relate these to the images.
3. Identify and state the historical significance of three individuals in the chapter.
4. Describe and state the historical significance of four major issues.
5. Ask three questions about the chapter content and then answer them. These may not be yes or no questions but should reveal deeper thought and analysis of the material.

Feel free to use colored pens, pencils, markers, etc. The more visually appealing the presentation, the more your peers can learn from your pattern.

Please use white, unlined paper for your one-pagers. You **MUST** number each required element of your one-pager!

Step Three:

Extra Credit: You may want to take advantage of this Assignment to earn Bonus Points that will be added to your AP Grade. Read ONE of the books listed below and write a 2-page summary and reaction to the book. Use the MLA format & the “5-paragraph” Essay format for the paper. This can be turned in at any point during the first quarter.

* Founding Brothers by Joseph J. Ellis

* 1776 by David McCullough

* George Washington: His Excellency by Joseph J. Ellis

* John Adams by David McCulloch (A great biography of our second President)

*Use this website for information on MLA format: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

How to Prepare during the Summer

1. **Enjoy your summer.** These few assignments should not consume your time or mind this summer. Go climb a tree, take a hike, or take a socially-distanced stroll with your friends. You will wish for that free time during the school year!
2. **Explore history.** If you take a vacation, see if you can stop at a 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!
3. **Read.** Try to read several books over the course of the summer. You will do a ton of reading in this class next year and if you are not in the habit of turning pages, it will be much more difficult to adjust. Read fiction, if that is your choice, but try picking up a historical book as well. There are some real page-turners about American history. Ask at the library (when they open) or email me and they/I will be delighted to steer you in the right direction.
4. **Write.** Keep a journal for the summer, or try to write a short story. The more you write the easier it is to write well. You will do a lot of writing in this class. The more comfortable you are with writing the more successful you will be.
5. **Become an informed citizen.** Read the newspaper. Watch the news. Try to keep updated on the world's events. Develop an opinion about Trump's successes and failures as a president.
6. **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.
7. **Watch history movies!** Do you really need to watch Iron man 2 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 or into Google and see what comes up!
8. **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 ...
9. **Explore your family history.** Stuck for a conversation starter at dinner? Ask your elders what it was like growing up. Do they remember any significant events in American history? How were they affected? You'll be surprised by how interesting people's lives really are.