

AP US History Summer Assignment 2020

Congrats! You are now an upperclassman! It's time to get serious – start thinking about college and start pushing yourself into college level thinking and writing. As you probably know, this class is intense, but if you read, prepare and enter discussions, you will have fun too. However, if you cannot handle the summer reading then please reconsider your choice to take this class as you will have a large amount of independent reading during the year! Your summer reading consists of one novel (of your choosing) and one book of nonfiction.

Directions:

1. **Read Ch 1-8 of *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, Doris Kearns Goodwin (2018).**

This book focuses on Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson and how they led the nation in times of upheaval. It seems well suited to the times we are living through now! We will use the remaining chapters during the school year so you will need a copy of your own. A test will be given on the first 8 chapters during the first week of school in August.

2. **Choose ONE of the following historical fiction novels to read and reflect upon in an essay. (Due Friday, Aug. 14th)**

The selection contains classics and modern fiction. Remember, you choose from the selections below so if you start a book and you hate it -- pick another. Read what you want, not just what your friends are reading. *Life is too short to spend time this summer on a book you despise and I guarantee you can find a book here that you will enjoy, if not love!*

Guidelines for the essay:

- Minimum 2-3 typed pages
- Identify and explain which of the 8 AP US themes are reflected in the chosen book. There may be several themes used! (Note: In 2019 AP altered the themes - use these new ones attached here).
- Explain why you chose your book and how this book challenged any preconceptions you had about the historical events/era in the book.
- Do not just write a summary of the book, this is a reflection. All quotes should be cited and all writing must be original.

Colonial and Native American

Caleb's Crossing, Geraldine Brooks

American West

Doc, Mary Doria Russell

My Antonia, Willa Cather

Westward expansion - several generations

Gilead, Marilynne Robinson

Slavery/Civil War

The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd

Lincoln in the Bardo, George Saunders

Cold Mountain, Charles Frazier

March, Geraldine Brooks

Gilded Age

**Devil in the White City*, Erik Larson

In Sunlight, In a Beautiful Garden, Kathleen Cambor

Martin Dressler, Steven Millhauser

Ragtime, E.L. Doctorow

20th Century- several generations

Some Luck, Jane Smiley

Transatlantic, Colum McCann

Depression Era

**Seabiscuit*, Laura Hillenbrand

WWII

Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson

Plot Against America, Philip Roth

Vietnam

The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien

African-American History

Homegoing, Yaa Gyasi

Local Writers/Southern History

In the Hope of Rising Again, Helen Scully

Four Spirits, Sena Jeter Naslund

**Technically, these are non-fiction but they read as if fiction*

APUSH Themes (revised summer 2019 according to new guidelines, your textbook does not reflect the revised ones)

THEME 1: AMERICAN AND NATIONAL IDENTITY (NAT)

This theme focuses on how and why definitions of American and national identity and values have developed among the diverse and changing population of North America as well as on related topics, such as citizenship, constitutionalism, foreign policy, assimilation, and American exceptionalism.

THEME 2: WORK, EXCHANGE, AND TECHNOLOGY (WXT)

This theme focuses on the factors behind the development of systems of economic exchange, particularly the role of technology, economic markets, and government.

THEME 3: GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (GEO)

This theme focuses on the role of geography and both the natural and human-made environments in the social and political developments in what would become the United States.

THEME 4: MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT (MIG)

This theme focuses on why and how the various people who moved to and within the United States both adapted to and transformed their new social and physical environments.

THEME 5: POLITICS AND POWER (PCE)

This theme focuses on how different social and political groups have influenced society and government in the United States as well as how political beliefs and institutions have changed over time.

THEME 6: AMERICA IN THE WORLD (WOR)

This theme focuses on the interactions between nations that affected North American history in the colonial period and on the influence of the United States on world affairs.

THEME 7: AMERICAN AND REGIONAL CULTURE (ARC)

This theme focuses on the how and why national, regional, and group cultures developed and changed as well as how culture has shaped government policy and the economy.

THEME 8: SOCIAL STRUCTURES (SOC)

This theme focuses on how and why systems of social organization develop and change as well as the impact that these systems have on the broader society