

2021-22 Advanced Placement U.S. History (Grade 11) Summer Assignments

Full Name of course: Advanced Placement United States History

Teacher name: Dr. Timothy Reagin

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Course Description:

Students will explore, analyze, and interpret the nine periods of American history from pre-contact through the present. Particular emphasis will be placed on learning how to succeed on the AP exam by learning how to effectively complete multiple-choice questions, respond to short answer questions, craft an argument for long essay questions, and analyze documents for a document-based question. Students will be required to obtain the AP level textbook determined by the instructor during the summer before entering the course. This college-level course meets graduation requirements for the state of North Carolina but also provides the opportunity to earn college credit if proficiency is demonstrated on the Advance Placement Exam. Students are required to take the AP exam in May. Exam Fee required.

Your Summer Introduction and Documents:

You will no doubt remember from our interest meeting that you have several assignments to complete over the summer. Based on the overwhelming nature of how much material we will need to cover this year, you must begin your study of American history before school begins in August. The College Board decided that American history should be divided into nine Periods. It will be your task to begin the first two periods before we meet. These two periods will represent about 10% of the total AP Exam next May. I have decided that you will not need to purchase the American Pageant textbook that I previously indicated (unless you desperately want to, in which case – that’s terrific). I have created a PDF version of the book that I will share with you from my Google Drive folder here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aIw17CgwWH37ICNUac-6wpWf7Z2bA_VY?usp=sharing . Download these chapters to your school and home computers so that you have them at all times. These chapters have corresponding reading guides on my Google Drive here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1shtEUgHdyMh_w6EQ8P8r4oLpWhKLyQF6?usp=sharing .Download these to your school computer and home computer too. Chapters 1-6 represent AP Periods 1 and 2. So you will need to complete those.

Though you do not need to buy the textbook unless you want, I am going to **STROGNLY RECOMMEND** that you buy a test prep book from Barron’s, Princeton Review, Kaplan, or another reputable publisher. These will help with studying content and the exam format.

On the first week of the new school year during Social Studies test day you will be given a test on the first **SIX CHAPTERS** that you completed over the summer.

Summer Assignments: All due the first day of class

Assignment 1: Write an introduction of yourself using the following format: Five paragraphs that include an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. This should be handwritten in **BLUE** or **BLACK** pen. I will not accept work this year written in pencil. In this introduction you will tell me who you are, interesting things about yourself that I should know, why you are taking this class (honestly), your favorite issue to study in American history, and anything else

that you think is relevant for me to know (are you a history nerd like me, do you play sports, why you are at Bishop, future college and career plans... these are just ideas to work off of).

Assignment 2: Read Chapter 1 New World Beginnings and complete Worksheet

Assignment 3: Read Chapter 2 Planting of English America and complete Worksheet

Assignment 4: Read Chapter 3 The Northern Colonies and complete Worksheet

Assignment 5: Read Chapter 4 Seventeenth Century American Life and complete Worksheet

Assignment 6: Read Chapter 5 Eighteenth Century Colonial Society and complete Worksheet

Assignment 7: Read Chapter 6 The Duel for North America and complete Worksheet

Assignment 8: Write a brief summary of your understanding of American history before the Revolution. This should be handwritten. You have covered this time period in the first six chapters. Now in essay format including an introduction, at least six body paragraphs (one for each chapter), and a conclusion. There is so much that you could write in this. However, your main task will be to concisely summarize American history. This may not be overly long and wordy. Depending on the size of your handwriting, you probably should not go over four pages.

Assignment 9: Use your newly purchased test prep book or online resources to familiarize yourself with the AP multiple choice style. This style is different from how you have been trained your whole life. The AP style usually includes a stimulus (photograph, document, map...) and three-four questions associated with the stimulus. Your first test in this class (and every test) will be in this format. If you fail the first test that will cover chapters 1-6, I will recommend that you be placed into an honors or CP U.S. history course.

Assignment 10: This assignment is RECOMMENDED but not required. Begin watching the YouTube Crash Course series on American history with John Green. Yes, I know that he is cheesy, and the gags have lost their luster over the last decade, but I still love these videos and we will watch these videos during the year to help our understanding. You should watch episodes 1 – 6 linked here:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMwmepBjTSG593eG7ObzO7s>

Notes about summer assignments – everything should be completed in blue or black pen. If it is not, I will hand it back to you and make you redo it with a late penalty. The only thing you will need a pencil for in this class is in the rare instance we will need to use a scantron.

You may complete these assignments at your own pace. However, you should note that if you choose to wait until the weekend before the new year begins, you will cause yourself a great deal of trouble and may not produce quality work. These NINE summer assignments will let me know your level of preparation and dedication to this course. If your summer work is sub-par, I will recommend that you be placed in an honors or CP course instead.

If you have questions, please contact me at treagin@bmhs.us

Have a great summer! I truly look forward to working with you all this year.

Sincerely,
Dr. Timothy Reagin