

## 2017-2018 AP US History/APUSH – Mrs Tran’s Summer Assignments

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”  
-Abigail Adams, 1780

Dear Incoming APUSH student,

Congratulations on your decision to take AP US History. This course provides an excellent opportunity for you to fulfill your American History requirement at a college level while preparing for the AP Exam for possible college credit and/or placement. Yet even apart from the AP exam, the benefits of the course are many. The course not only “looks good” on a student’s transcript, but it also prepares students for college through its emphasis on analytical thinking, interpretation of historic positions, and development of research and writing skills necessary in nearly every college course. Furthermore, students who complete AP coursework generally score well on college-entrance exams, due in large part to the extra reading and vocabulary development that comes with AP courses. Perhaps the greatest benefit is that it is an amazing opportunity to delve into history — to complete a true survey course with a lot of discussion and debate.

While preparing you for the AP Exam in May is one of my main goals, I also want you to leave with a solid understanding of history and confidence to attack difficult tasks (like the AP exam and the college years). I hope you will enjoy the course as well, that amid the workload and efforts in studying, you will develop an appreciation for history and will see its relevance to the world today. I will do everything I can to help you succeed.

In an effort to save paper, all of your summer work can be accessed at our Schoology website: <https://app.schoology.com/course/1097081766/materials>. If you don’t have a Schoology account, now is the time to sign up. This site will be a major part of the APUSH course and it is important you are familiar/comfortable with it. Once you sign up/sign in, the access code for our course is: **GXN8T-X42DF** **Nota Bene:** I will have to accept your request so if it seems like it didn’t work, don’t panic. Wait a couple hours and if it still seems to have not worked, send me a message.

All work is due on the second day of class and worth TWO quiz grades.

(While you are at it, also go to the College Board website. Here you can learn more about college credits, course description, and course requirements. I will discuss these further at the beginning of the year. )  
<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-united-states-history>

On Schoology you will also find materials for your summer overall course information. The handbook portion is extremely important, and you will consult it several times during the year, particularly at the beginning. You will notice I have included an AP Commitment form as well. You will be asked to sign this and probably should review it from time to time to remind yourself of the commitment you have made to the class and to your own education.

The summer reading assignment may seem daunting, but don’t let it scare you. Because we cover Columbus to Clinton before the test, we need every possible second of class time. This will give you a jump-start on the massive amount of material we will cover, and it also will give you a taste of the kind of work you will have in APUSH. I am confident you are qualified for the course, and I am confident you will be able to complete this work with ease if you pace yourself and take the time to understand. If you run into problems or have questions, please contact me via e-mail: [mtran@southingtonschools.org](mailto:mtran@southingtonschools.org) .

Thank you for your dedication to the course and your own success. I am looking forward to seeing you in August and to a great year in APUSH.

Sincerely,  
Mary Tess Tran  
AP US History