

2016-2017 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.

On Schoology you will find materials for your summer work and 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 second of class time possible. 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 do run into problems or questions, please contact me any time this summer via e-mail:
marytesstran@gmail.com .

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

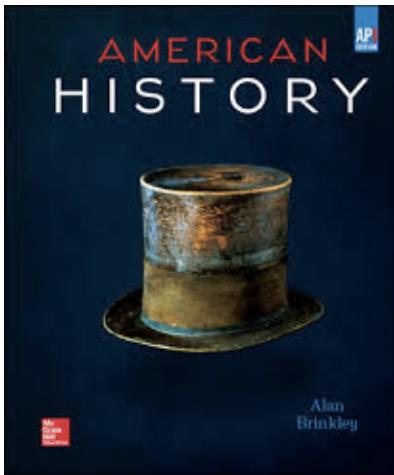
In an effort to save paper, all of your summer work can be accessed at our Schoology website (<https://app.schoology.com/course/606958127/materials>). If you don’t have a Schoology account, now is the time to sign up. This site will be a major part of the APUSH course and it is important you are familiar/comfortable with it. Once you sign up/sign in, the access code for our summer work is: **N9S9D-RNHR6** . All work is due on the first day of class.

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.

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>

TEXTBOOK: American History (ed Alan Brinkley)



Our textbooks are not in yet so I have a few different assignments to help you grapple the early material.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS:

1) About me – Write a description of yourself. Please include the following information:

- Contact information: Your Name, Email, Guardian Contact (name, phone, email)
- your academic goals
- outside interests
- why you signed up for AP US History
- what you expect to get from this class
- other/any other info you would like to share about yourself (learning style, family make-up, strengths, weaknesses, etc.)

You may hand-write or type this. Answers may be bulleted but please make sure this info is complete.

2. AP US History Test Prep book – One of the main purposes of this class is to prepare you for the AP US History test. In order for you to be successful on this test as well as in this class, you must purchase one of the APUSH prep books. These are available online, at Barnes and Noble Bookstores, or at the local public library....(or, you can borrow one from a student from last year). **However, since the test format was completely redesigned for 2015, look for Prep books or online resources that include practice tests with the new format (to be explained by your AP teachers in the fall...).** I like the Baron's book the best but Kaplan, Princeton Review, and "5 Steps to a Five" are also good.

3. Materials – Here is a list of materials that are needed for the course. I may add to this list in the future. *Index Cards – 300 in a pack to start (used for vocabulary/flash cards) * 2 Binders (& Dividers; helpful in organizing the many paper resources I will provide; 1 binder is for semester 1, the other for semester 2) * Standard Resources: Pen, Pencil, Paper, highlighters

4. ASSIGNMENTS –

- A. Read and outline textbooks chapters 1-3; I will be checking the outlines and you will have a quiz on this info.
- B. Read "American Holocaust" and answer questions 1-6.
- C. Read "From These Beginnings" and answer questions 1-5.
- D. Read/annotate "What is History?"; be ready for a discussion
- E. Read/annotate "Why Study History?"; be ready for a discussion
- F. Read "Conservative vs Liberal"; at the beginning of the year, you will be taking a "quiz" on your own political leanings.
- G. Look through the Writing Handouts; come in with questions.
- H. Print out the Movie permission form and AP Commitment form.