

Dear Future AP US History Students-

I'm thrilled that you'll be joining me in a survey of American history next year. I'm sharing the Summer homework assignment with you now so that you have time- before the end of the school year- to ask any questions. PLEASE NOTE- I will be out of the country from July 16 to August 2nd and will not reply to emails during that time! Ask questions early :)

I have designed this course to give you choices in the content that you learn. The first choice you need to make is to identify which book you will select for your required readings. The three choices are:

- [An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People](#) by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz
- [A Black Women's History of the United States: ReVisioning American History](#) by Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross
- [A Queer History of the United States for Young People](#) by Michael Bronski

You can buy a book new or used; paperback or hardback; print or audio. Your choice! There will be 3 corresponding class cohorts that will regularly participate in break-out discussions on these diverse readings throughout the school year. I have all 3 books in my room and available for preview!

The summer homework assignment for AP US history will take, on average, 12-15 hours to complete (depending on prior knowledge of Native American history and European history). ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IN AUGUST. Anyone that doesn't complete the AP US history homework will have their enrollment switched to US history (likewise, anyone enrolled in US history that wants to be considered for AP US must complete the Summer homework on time).

Summer HW assignment:

- 1) [Review and watch video overview of Summer expectations](#)
- 2) Complete [pre-learning activities](#)
- 3) Complete [deeper-dive review activities](#)
- 4) Read chapter 1 of whichever book you chose!
- 5) Complete [application activities](#)
 - a) Including participation in a [3-2-1 Discussion at Flipgrid](#)
 - b) Including completion of a short answer question (type your responses; submit to Blackbaud)
- 6) Purchase i-Score 5 AP US History for a smart phone or tablet; have loaded on device
- 7) OPTIONAL: [go deeper into Native American history](#)

In closing, this course will build your knowledge of major themes and trends in US history, and will develop your historical thinking skills. The course is rigorous: in order to pass the national exam, you'll need to consistently practice self-discipline. Successful habits will include:

- Watching and taking notes on all pre-learning videos **BEFORE** each class
- Completing assigned readings **prior** to class
- Participating meaningfully in classroom activities
- Completing exit tickets in a timely manner
- Dedicating an extra 15-20 minutes to reviewing notes **after** each class
- Mentally and emotionally **preparing yourself for lower grades**: on average, you should anticipate that first semester assessment grades will be ~ 10 points lower than whatever you've earned to-date. You can prepare yourself to accept initially lower grades by taking comfort in these facts:

- I have a generous safety net grading system. If you earn less than an 80 on any AP assessment you can redo it and earn a B.
- Anyone that wants to complete optional extended learning activities may do so and earn extra credit that can raise their quarter average by up to 3 total points (from a B- to a B, a B+ to an A-, from an A- to an A, etc).

I know you must have some questions, so please- come see me BEFORE the end of the year.

All my best, Ms. Smith <^..^>

