

AP US History Summer Reading Requirements

Welcome to AP US History with Mr. Meadows! The 2014-2015 school year will be a very busy one as we prepare ourselves for a rigorous Advanced Placement examination sometime in Early May of 2015. AP US History is a *college-level* course that will require you to have *extensive background knowledge* in US History.

Since this is a *college-level* course that requires *extensive background knowledge* in all aspects of US History, it is imperative that we get off the ground running in August/September. As such, every AP US History student will be required to complete the following summer reading assignments by the first day of school, for the 2014 – 2015 school year.

1) Read the first three chapters (1- 3) of the assigned textbook, *The American Pageant*

2) Students must also read ONE of the following twelve books:

Note: You will find that paperback versions are very reasonable in price. While it is not a Requirement to purchase the book, and all of these books ARE available in the New Haven Public Library system, it may be helpful for highlighting/note-taking if you purchase your own.

THE SCARLETT LETTER – NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF FREDRICK DOUGLAS--FREDRICK DOUGLAS
UNCLE TOM’S CABIN--HARRIET BEECHER STOWE
THE JUNGLE--UPTON SINCLAIR
HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES--JACOB RIIS
UP FROM SLAVERY--BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
SOULS OF BLACK FOLK--W. E. B. DUBOIS
ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT--ERICH REMARQUE
HIROSHIMA--JOHN HERSHEY
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X--MALCOLM X
FEMININE MYSTIQUE--BETTY FRIEDAN
THE QUIET AMERICAN--GRAHAM GREENE

3) Students must complete a dialectical journal while reading their chosen book from the above Twelve (12) options. A dialectical journal is set up in the following manner: (By quotation, I mean a passage from the book that you find interesting or important...it does not have to be an actual direct quotation from a historical personality - it can simply be a quotation of a fact or opinion that the author makes in the book) While there is no firm requirement for the number of quotations that you should select, I would argue that you should be able to select a **minimum of 50** interesting items from any of the books listed above.
Quotation Page Why I find this quotation interesting or important.

4) To complete a DBQ assignment (assigned) prior to the start of the summer break.

Unit 1: (1 week)

Exploration, Discovery, and Settlement

American Pageant: Chapter 1, New World Beginnings

Pre-Columbian cultures, early explorations, introduction of slavery,

Spanish and French claims, the rise of mercantilism

After the Fact: The Strange Death of Silas Deane The American Spirit, Volume I: Aztec

Chroniclers Describe the Spanish Conquest of Mexico

DBQ: On Columbus and others (explorers) excerpts (writings)

Unit 2: (2 weeks)

The Thirteen Colonies and the British

American Pageant: Chapter 2, The Planting of English America

The Chesapeake and southern English colonies, ties with Caribbean economies, British mercantilism

Chapter 3, Settling the Northern Colonies

New England and the Puritans, religious dissent, colonial politics and conflict with British authority, the middle colonies

After the Fact: Serving time in Virginia

The American Spirit, Volume I: Precarious Beginnings in Virginia

DBQ: On early efforts at inter-colonial cooperation and union

Wilbur Cross High School History Department

****Grade 9th Students Requesting AP US History***

June 2014

Procedure:

- **Complete AP request form with current teacher recommendation.**
- **Meet with department administrator and AP US History teacher.**
- **Complete a pre-assessment placement test.**
- **Complete a DBQ writing sample (provided by AP US History teacher.)**
- **If approved, obtain “AP US History Summer Reading Requirements” hand-out from AP US History teacher.**
- **Provide home e-mail/phone contact information to AP US History teacher.**
- **Sign AP course contract at the beginning of the school year.**

**Please understand that Wilbur Cross High School is proud of its AP program and wants to ensure the success of each and every student. We believe that it is necessary to take “Honors US History I” in preparation for the Advanced Placement AP US History course in order to ensure the best exam performance. We also support students who believe they can meet the AP challenge in their sophomore year, and their parents who understand the necessity of fostering the student, teacher, parent partnership.*

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