

## **AP United States History Optional Summer Assignment**

Hello New Recruits!

First, welcome to one of the most challenging and rewarding courses a high school student can take. AP US History, commonly referred to as “APUSH,” will introduce you to the academic discipline of history and challenge you to drop preconceived notions of the tasks of the historian. The typical high school history course results in the rote memorization of a myriad of dates and names with little emphasis on historical thinking skills. In this course, memorization of dates and names will be a byproduct of the course work. At the conclusion of the course, you will be ready to tackle any history class in college.

There is no required summer assignment for this course. We will spend plenty of time during the school year honing the historical thinking skills as we navigate the entirety of United States History. The course begins, in all honesty, around 10,000 BCE and concludes in the present day. That is a lot of ground to cover, but you will do it with the discerning eye of the historian.

Listed below are several activities and readings that will be helpful as you prepare for this course. While not required, it is highly recommended that you set aside 30 minutes to an hour per week over the summer to keep your mind sharp and ready for action on the first day of school. What you do is entirely up to you. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [bselt@spring-ford.net](mailto:bselt@spring-ford.net). Now, it is time for the activities.

### **I. Suggested Readings (I recommend choosing ONE)**

- a. 1491 by Charles C. Mann
- b. Advanced Placement United States History by John J. Newman and John M Schmalbach (2020 edition... this is the “AMSCO” text we will use often.)
- c. The Landscape of History by John Lewis Gaddis
- d. Empires of the Atlantic World by John H. Elliott
- e. A History of the American People by Paul Johnson
- f. The Methods and Skills of History, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. by Michael J. Salevouris

### **II. Websites to Bookmark**

- a. The Gilder-Lehrman Institute-- <http://ap.gilderlehrman.org/>
- b. US History-- <https://www.ushistory.org/US/index.asp>
- c. Fight Fiercely APUSH-- <http://www.ffapush.com/>
- d. College Board Course Page-- <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-united-states-history/course>

### **III. YouTube Channels**

- a. Mr. Jocz-- <https://www.youtube.com/user/JoczProductions>
- b. Heimler’s History-- [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_bOoioe3L3SJ1xx5TZWHPw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_bOoioe3L3SJ1xx5TZWHPw)

### **IV. Podcasts**

- a. American History Tellers-- <https://wonderly.com/shows/american-history-tellers/>
- b. Constitutional-- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/podcasts/constitutional/>
- c. Presidential-- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/business/podcasts/presidential/>

### **V. Place to Visit (if possible)**

- a. Valley Forge Park
- b. The Constitution Center
- c. Gettysburg
- d. Ft. Mifflin