

This is not an assignment, but an opportunity to get a head start in two different ways:

- I. This assignment will be required the first week of class in August, but I recommend that you do it ahead. You will need a big 3-ring binder dedicated to this class. Decorate the front with your name and several images related to the course. Go to apstudent.collegeboard.org, and look up the AP U.S. History course. Download and print the course overview, and put it in your binder. It is only two pages. Do not print the course and exam description; it is 147 pages. Each of the historical periods described in the course overview will be a unit in this course. Make folder tabs for each unit, and write the years of the period on each tab. Create a MAPS appendix in your binder and load it with folder-sized maps that you find and print, showing: Columbian Exchange, 13 British American colonies, Triangular Trade, U.S. after the Treaty of Paris of 1783, Louisiana Purchase, Transcontinental Treaty of 1819 (aka Adams-Onis Treaty), Mexican Cession.

Caution: While you are on the College Board website, you might find it interesting to look at the course exam and description, especially the course objectives arranged by period and the sample questions at the end. However, I believe that this document makes the course look more difficult and boring than it really is.

Motivation: Mark the 2018 AP exam on your calendar: Friday, May 11, 2018, 8:00 AM. The exam fee (paid by the student) is \$93. On the College Board website, at the bottom of the home page, there is a link where you can check the AP credit policy of a particular college. If you are able to earn college credit for your work in AP classes, that represents a huge return on your investment.

- II. These assignments are never required, but they are bonus opportunities for you to take control of your grade early. I believe that August – May is just barely enough time to cover this course, but May – May is plenty of time. I have noticed over the years that the most successful AP students are the ones who are willing to make a hobby of it and even let the course influence your entertainment decisions over the summer. It is fine for you to work ahead over the summer and do these reviews in advance, but it will not be okay for you to back-date them during the school year.
 - A. You may turn in one book review per quarter for a test grade.
 - B. You may turn in one film review per month for a quiz grade. You can start in May, 2017 and do one film review every month until May, 2018 for a maximum of 13 film reviews.

Which books? It should be an adult-level book related to U.S. History, fiction or non-fiction. Audio books are okay. Some of my favorites from summers past: *Devil in the White City* by Eric Larson, anything by Sarah Vowell, David McCullough or Stephen Ambrose.

Which movies? I will not publish a list, but you can find several online with an easy google search. Nothing rated R. The P in PG stands for parents, so involve them in your decisions. Hollywood has been making history movies for a long time. It is never necessary to violate your family's standards in order to complete this assignment. It should be a feature film (as opposed to a documentary) that is set in the United States in the past.

2017-18 AP History Bonus Book Review

NAME: _____ QUARTER: _____

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SETTING AND PLOT: _____

WRITE A SHORT PARAGRAPH DESCRIBING WHAT THIS BOOK SHOWS ABOUT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

POLITICS

IDEAS AND/OR INTELLECTUAL MOVEMENTS

RELIGION

ART

TECHNOLOGY

ECONOMICS

SOCIAL HISTORY

2017-18 AP History Bonus Film Review

NAME: _____ MONTH: _____

TITLE: _____

HOW DID YOU WATCH IT? _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SETTING AND PLOT: _____

WRITE A SHORT PARAGRAPH DESCRIBING WHAT THIS FILM SHOWS ABOUT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

POLITICS

IDEAS AND/OR INTELLECTUAL MOVEMENTS

RELIGION

ART

TECHNOLOGY

ECONOMICS

SOCIAL HISTORY

+5 BONUS: Who watched it with you? _____ What did you discuss about the film afterward?