

AP US History Summer Assignment 2019

Congrats! You are now an upperclassman! It's time to get really serious – start thinking about college, and start the last half of high school. As you probably know, this class is going to be intense, but if you read, prepare and enter discussions, you will have fun too. In order to be ready for the year there are a few assignments that you must complete before the first day of school. It consists of one novel (of your choosing) and an entertaining book of non-fiction.

Your summer assignment is as follows:

1. **Read *The Wordy Shipmates*, Sarah Vowell (2008).** This engaging, concise book discusses the Puritans and gives the author's views on the Puritan impact on our modern nation. It will enable us to jump into the first and second sections of APUSH as well as address one of the main themes of APUSH -- the American Identity. There will be a test on this book the first week of school in August. (Copies of this paperback may be found in bookstores or online. Cheap used copies to be found on sites such as betterworldbooks.com).

2. **Choose ONE of the following historical fiction novels to read and reflect upon in an essay. (Due Friday, August 16th)**

The selection contains classics and modern fiction. Remember, you choose from the selections below so if you start a book and you hate it -- pick another. Life is too short to spend time this summer on a book you despise and I guarantee that you can find a book here that you will enjoy, if not love!

Guidelines for the essay:

- 2-3 typed pages
- Identify and explain which of the 8 AP US themes are reflected in the chosen book. See attached themes. (Note: 2019 APUSH changes altered the themes - use these new ones).
- Explain why you chose your book and how this book challenged any preconceptions you had about the historical events in the book.
- Do not just write a summary of the book, this is a reflection.

Colonial and Native American

Caleb's Crossing, Geraldine Brooks

20th Century- several generations

Some Luck, Jane Smiley

American West

Doc, Mary Doria Russell

My Antonia, Willa Cather

Depression Era

**Seabiscuit*, Laura Hillenbrand

Westward expansion - several generations

Gilead, Marilynne Robinson

WWII

Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson

Plot Against America, Philip Roth

Slavery/Civil War

The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd

Lincoln in the Bardo, George Saunders

Cold Mountain, Charles Frazier

March, Geraldine Brooks

Vietnam

The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien

African-American History

Homegoing, Yaa Gyasi

Gilded Age

**Devil in the White City*, Erik Larson

In Sunlight, In a Beautiful Garden, Kathleen Cambor

Martin Dressler, Steven Millhauser

Ragtime, E.L. Doctorow

Local Writers/Southern History

The Poet of Tolstoy Park, Sonny Brewer

In the Hope of Rising Again, Helen Scully

*Technically, these are non-fiction but they read as if fiction

**APUSH Themes (revised summer 2019
according to new guidelines)**

THEME 1: AMERICAN AND NATIONAL IDENTITY (NAT)

This theme focuses on how and why definitions of American and national identity and values have developed among the diverse and changing population of North America as well as on related topics, such as citizenship, constitutionalism, foreign policy, assimilation, and American exceptionalism.

THEME 2: WORK, EXCHANGE, AND TECHNOLOGY (WXT)

This theme focuses on the factors behind the development of systems of economic exchange, particularly the role of technology, economic markets, and government.

THEME 3: GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (GEO)

This theme focuses on the role of geography and both the natural and human-made environments in the social and political developments in what would become the United States.

THEME 4: MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT (MIG)

This theme focuses on why and how the various people who moved to and within the United States both adapted to and transformed their new social and physical environments.

THEME 5: POLITICS AND POWER (PCE)

This theme focuses on how different social and political groups have influenced society and government in the United States as well as how political beliefs and institutions have changed over time.

THEME 6: AMERICA IN THE WORLD (WOR)

This theme focuses on the interactions between nations that affected North American history in the colonial period and on the influence of the United States on world affairs.

THEME 7: AMERICAN AND REGIONAL CULTURE (ARC)

This theme focuses on the how and why national, regional, and group cultures developed and changed as well as how culture has shaped government policy and the economy.

THEME 8: SOCIAL STRUCTURES (SOC)

This theme focuses on how and why systems of social organization develop and change as well as the impact that these systems have on the broader society