

Welcome to AP U.S. History! This challenging course will ask you to examine the development of the U.S. starting in 1491 and ending with the present. We have a lot to cover, but do not get too scared because you already have learned a lot of the material in 9th and 10th grades. The AP course is a college-level class, with a lot of reading, writing and critical thinking. We will move at a **fast pace** and a lot of the work will be independent; you will be responsible for how much you learn. I will hold study sessions and additional reviews throughout the year, but it will be up to you to earn the exam grade and get college credit.

As part of this class you will have **summer work**, which consists of four parts: emailing me, watching three movies of your choice, creating a 1-page study guide, and a practice quiz. I will collect this work in the first week of class and it will be worth a total of 50 points. You will be quizzed on this work the first week.

Look for the summer work, examples and extra resources on our class website: <http://aphistoryupcs.weebly.com>

ASSIGNMENT 1: EMAIL MS. SPENCER

- Email me during the first week of summer so I have your email address. Please explain why you want to take the course and how you will manage the workload. spencerc@worc.k12.ma.us
- If I do not hear from you by Friday, July 7th then I will assume you do not want to take the course

ASSIGNMENT 2: MOVIE REVIEWS

I do not want you to spend your whole summer watching Netflix, but I want to keep these key topics fresh in your mind. Hollywood loves history and although movies are NOT always historically accurate, they are a good way to visualize and remember events from the past. You can find these films on YouTube, Amazon Prime, Netflix, Hulu or at the Worcester Public Library. *Please note that many of these films are rated R and contain graphic content; make sure to review the list with your guardian.*

For your summer assignment, choose at least 4 movies, one from each section to examine.

Exploration-Civil War

- o The New World (2005)
- o Apocalypto
- o The Crucible (1996)
- o Last of the Mohicans (1992)
- o We Shall Remain: Episode 1- After the Mayflower
- o The Patriot (2000)
- o God in America: Episode 1- The New Adam
- o Turn: Washington's Spies (2014-present)
- o John Adams (HBO Series-is on Amazon)
- o Africans in America: The Terrible Transformation
- o Amistad (2004)
- o Sally Hemmings: An American Scandal
- o We Shall Remain: Episode 2- Tecumseh's Vision
- o Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives
- o The Alamo (2004)
- o Lincoln (2012)

- o Glory (1989)
- o The Conspirator (2011)
- o 12 Years a Slave
- o Gettysburg
- o Roots (1977 or 2016)
- o The Color Purple
- o Walker
- o Killing Lincoln
- o Gone with the Wind

Reconstruction-World War II

- o The Men Who Built America (History Channel Series)
- o High Noon
- o True Grit
- o The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford
- o Rough Riders (1997)
- o American Experience: Triangle Fire
- o All Quiet on the Western Front
- o Gangs of New York
- o The Orphan Trains
- o Flyboys (2006)

- o Of Mice and Men
- o The World Wars (History Channel Series WWI-WWII)
- o Band of Brothers/ The Pacific (HBO-is on Amazon)
- o Valkyrie (2008)
- o Flags of Our Fathers (2006)
- o Wind Talkers (2002)
- o Red Tails (2012)
- o A League of Their Own
- o The Great Gatsby
- o The Untouchables
- o O Brother Where Art Thou?
- o Cinderella Man
- o Hester Street
- o Ken Burns: The Dust Bowl
- o The Aviator
- o Iron Jawed Angels
- o The Tuskegee Airmen
- o A Raisin in the Sun
- o Das Boot
- o Saving Private Ryan
- o Valkyrie
- o Pearl Harbor
- o The Thin Red Line
- o Letters from Iwo Jima

Cold War -Present

- October Sky (1999)
- Death of a Salesman
- J. Edgar
- The Motorcycle Diaries
- I Am Cuba
- Cider House Rules
- Apocalypse Now
- Good Morning, Vietnam
- Full Metal Jacket
- The Killing Fields
- The Majestic (2001)
- Pleasantville (1998)
- Thirteen Days (2000)
- Apollo 13
- The Right Stuff
- A Force More Powerful
- All the President's Men
- Forrest Gump (1994)
- The Help (2011)
- The Butler (2013)
- Selma
- Malcom X
- Smoke Signals
- Mississippi Burning
- All the President's Men
- Frost/Nixon (2008)
- Argo (2012)
- Milk
- Jarhead
- Wall Street
- American History X
- Charlie Wilson's War (2007)
- Bowling for Columbine
- Three Kings
- Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

As you watch the film, take notes on:

1. The film information: *Title and year made*
2. The historical setting: *Where and when does the film take place?*
3. The historical conflict: *What is the main problem of the film? What issue is going on at the time?*
4. The norms of society: social, cultural, political, and economic (norms rules) set at that time period
 - a. Social: *How do people interact/treat each other during this time period?*
 - b. Cultural: *How people are living; religion, music, fashion?*
 - c. Political: *What laws, government actions, or political groups/characters affect the film?*
 - d. Economic: *How are people making money in the film? Are there social classes?*
5. The end result of the film:
 - a. *How did the historical event end?*
 - b. *How did the characters of the movie change from the beginning to the end?*

You can take notes in bullet/list form, **you do not need to write them in paragraph form.** Go to the class website to see examples of movie reviews. If viewing a movie will be impossible for you, let me know in your email and we can come up with a plan. Also don't hesitate to ask if you find another movie to watch.

ASSIGNMENT 3: PERIOD 1 PREVIEW 1490-1607

Our course starts with Period 1 (1490-1607) and you will preview this time period on your own over the summer. You will need to create a **2-page study guide** summarizing the information in Period 1. This is a way for you to preview the content, but also for me to see where you are at in terms of note-taking and summarizing.

1. Visit the AP Review Website from Gilder Lehrman
http://ap.gilderlehrman.org/period/1#apush_period_videos
2. Watch the introduction video
3. Look through the timeline
4. Watch ALL of the short video clips
5. Read 1 of the 4 essays at the bottom
6. Use the information to create **1-page study guide**

A study guide is meant to be a tool for you to use when reviewing for an exam. Your study guide could include any/all of the following: vocabulary, key dates, important information. For examples of study guides, check out the class website.

ASSIGNMENT 4: PERIOD 1 PRACTICE QUIZ 1490-1607

After you complete your Period 1 study guide, take the practice quiz online. We will take a quiz similar to this the first week of class. There is a link on the website or use the link below:

<http://www.highschooltestprep.com/ap/us-history/practice-test-1/>

If you have any questions at all, check out the class website or email me! Good luck!