

APUSH Summer Assignment 2015

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Introduction

Hello and welcome to AP U.S. History for 2015-2016! I am anxious to meet you and am excited for our journey through U.S. history next year! My name is Ms. Manchac and I will be teaching APUSH at PVA in the fall. If you have any questions regarding the summer assignment or APUSH in general, please feel free to email me or check out the course website where I will post additional copies of all material, among other useful things.

The following is your summer assignment for the course. This is meant to give you an understanding of some of the very first content we will encounter at the beginning of the school year. In addition, these chapters and activities will expose you to a few of the important skills that you will need for next year including historical argumentation, author point of view, and historiography. You will also complete physical map of the U.S. to ensure that you are comfortable navigating the regions of the country as geography is an important foundation for your understanding of historical causation.

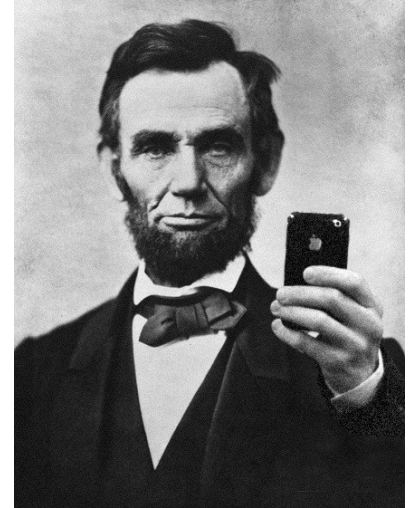
Your completed assignment will be **due on the first day of school** and you will be assessed over all material in the first week. Your assignment may be typed or handwritten but must be submitted to me as a hard copy.

Please plan to purchase your own copy of *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn ([Amazon link below](#)). We will use this in addition to the textbook throughout next year and it will be advantageous to have your own copy for you to annotate.

Once again, I am looking forward to an awesome school year with you all next year. Have a fantastic, productive summer!

Sincerely,

Ms. Manchac



Assignment, Part One: Critical Reading

Reading One

Reading:

Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. New York: New Press, 1995. Print.

Amazon Link: <http://amzn.com/0743296281>

PDF download: <http://tinyurl.com/m9z7dy8>

Assignment

1. Read and annotate the following:

-Introduction: *Something Has Gone Very Wrong*

-Chapter One: *Handicapped by History: The Process of Hero-making*

-Chapter Two: 1493: The True Importance of Christopher Columbus

-Chapter Three: The Truth About the First Thanksgiving

2. Summarize each section (four total) in writing. Consider the following in your summaries:

- What is the author's thesis/argument for the book? For each chapter?
- What evidence does he use to support his argument? Is his evidence compelling and/or convincing? Why or why not?
- What is your perception of this section/chapter? Does this information challenge or confirm what you knew previously? Why or why not?

Each section/chapter summary should be 350-550 words.

Reading Two

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present*. New York: HarperCollins, 2003. Print.

Amazon Link: <http://amzn.com/0060838655>

Assignment

- a. Read and annotate Chapter One, "Columbus, The Indians, and Human Progress". A hard copy has been provided for you.
- b. Answer the following questions. Please answer in complete thoughts and sentences and substantiate your responses with evidence from the text.
 1. Summarize the chapter. Like you did with the Loewen reading, consider the following in your summary:
 - What is the author's thesis/argument for the book? For each chapter?
 - What evidence does he use to support his argument? Is his evidence compelling and/or convincing? Why or why not?
 - What is your perception of this section/chapter? Does this information challenge or confirm what you knew previously? Why or why not?
 2. "My viewpoint in telling the history of the United States, is different: that we must not accept the memory of states as our own. Nations are not communities and never have been, the history of any country, presented as the history of a family, conceals fierce conflicts of interest (sometimes exploding, most often repressed) between conquerors and conquered, masters and slaves, capitalists and workers, dominators and dominated in race and sex... this book will be skeptical of governments and their attempts, through politics and culture, to ensnare ordinary people in a giant web of nationhood pretending to a common interest." (pgs 5-6)

The above quote is essentially Zinn's thesis of the book. What is his assertion about the way in which we typically read history? Do you agree or disagree? Please defend your answer.
3. Describe the Spanish interactions with the indigenous people of the Americas (give a couple of examples). How does this compare/contrast with the English in their North American settlements?
4. After reading pages 10-11, compare and contrast the descriptions of the Indian cultures to those of the Europeans. Include several examples.
5. Given what you have learned about the cultural and economic values of the Arawak/Taino and the Spanish explorers, do you think there could have been a relationship different from that of victims and conquerors? Or do you think that such interaction was inevitable? How and why?
6. There is relatively little disagreement among historians about what happened to the Tainos. Why do you think this story is not more widely taught in school?
7. Do you think it is "inevitable" that the writing of history take sides? Explain.
8. Compare the perspectives of Zinn and Loewen. Would Loewen agree or disagree with Zinn's argument? Why or why not?

Assignment, Part Two: Physical Geography

Physical Geography

1. Label all major mountain ranges featured on the map.
 - a. Appalachians
 - b. Rockies
 - c. Sierra Nevadas
2. Label all major rivers.
3. Label all oceans/gulfs
4. Label plains/deserts
5. Label major lakes

Political Geography

1. Label all 50 states
2. Locate and label Washington D.C.
3. Locate and label the following significant locations
 - a. Boston, Massachusetts
 - b. Jamestown, Virginia
 - c. New York City, New York
 - d. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 - e. Chicago, Illinois
 - f. New Orleans, Louisiana
 - g. Los Angeles, California
 - h. Houston, Texas
 - i. Washington, D.C.

Regional Geography

1. Locate and define the following geographic/cultural regions
 - a. Northeast/New England
 - b. Mid-Atlantic
 - c. South
 - d. Mid-West
 - e. Southwest
 - f. West

Please complete your map as neatly as possible. This should be something that can serve as a reference to you throughout the school year.



Assignment, Part Three: Personal Narrative

We all have a place in history and come to class with our own stories, experiences, and aspirations. As we will be spending the year together, I want to know a little about yours! I will keep the framework for your personal narrative loose so that you can maximize your creativity here, but tell me a bit about yourself, where you've been and where you're going. If you need a framework for your narrative, consider some or all of the following questions.

- Long term goals (college/career)*
- hobbies/interests*
- favorite places you have been*
- favorite book, movie, music, etc*
- favorite course so far*
- any short vignette that tells me a little about who you are*
- any additional information that you would like for me to know*

While I do not expect for you to write me a full autobiography, let's limit our personal narratives to 400-700 words.