



Seekonk High Scho

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Advanced Placement United States History Summer Reading Assignment

Directions

Read and take HANDWRITTEN notes on the assigned readings (you will NOT be allowed to use typed or copied notes - this is to curb any attempts to cheat). You should keep track of major people/figures as well as a brief summary of important /major events in each chapter. When you return from summer break you will have a multiple-choice/short-answer test on readings assigned. You will be allowed to use your notes on the tests, but you must complete the test in the time allotted - this means you should review your notes before taking the tests. The tests are meant to assess your ability to read for content and critical thought but NOT meant to trip-up, or trick you. If you actively read and take notes, you should have no problem passing the tests and starting off the first quarter on a solid footing. Your notes will also be checked as a homework grade. I will be looking for whether or not you followed the basics of the assignment, as well as checking to make sure notes were done individually/independently.

Assigned books and readings

A Patriots History of the United States by Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen – read the Introduction and Chapters 1, 3, & 4.

A Peoples History of the United States by Howard Zinn. – read Chapters 1-2 and 4-6.

America's History by Henretta, Hinderaker, Eddwards, and Self. This is the course textbook and you will be supplied with copies of Chapters 1 and 2.

Assignment #1: Read the handouts of Part 1, Chapters 1 & 2 of our course textbook *America's History*. Create a HANDWRITTEN chapter outline for both chapters on all of the material read in the following way:

Part One: Identify each chapter number, title and page numbers. List each subject of study using the chapter contents.

Part Two: Divide the note pages for each subject of study into two columns; the left column (1/3rd) will be labeled: ,people, places, dates, events and terms; the right column (2/3rd) will consist of your response to the item in the left column (Cornell Notes).

Part Three: Write the title, Key Points or Vital Concept/s from the Chapters. A short answer essay response will be written demonstrating the student's insights and conclusions about the content discussed in each chapter (2-3 paragraphs for each chapter assigned)

These chapter outlines will be collected on the first day of class and counted as a quiz grade.

Assignment #2

A common misconception of history is that there is a history without bias. However, all historians write from a perspective. In order to hone our skills in analyzing viewpoints and in better determining what a well-argued history reads like, we will be reading selections from two opposing narratives of US history during the summer and throughout the course. In 1980 Howard Zinn published his path breaking history *A People's History of the United States.*, Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen countered with *A Patriot's History of the United States: From Columbus's Great Discovery to the War on Terror (2004).*

1. Take handwritten notes of all of the chapter contents using the methods recommended in the Directions paragraph. These will be collected on the first day and can be used on a comprehension quiz at the beginning of the year.
2. Answer the three (3) prompts below in intelligent well-written typed double spaced short essays. Your responses must be typed, double spaced in Times New Roman or Courier New 12 point font. You should incorporate quotes and or citations from the book to fully answer the questions. There is no need for a work cited page, simply note the page you are referencing at the end of your sentence or paragraph and from which book. Your responses will vary in length but should range from several paragraphs to two pages. If you feel compelled to write more ... that is fine. **Responses will be collected the first day of class and count as a test grade.**

Questions

1. What are the primary arguments and theses for Zinn and Schweikart in their opening chapters? In what ways are their respective depictions of Columbus and of Native Americans similar and in what ways different? Which narrative do you find yourself most agreeing with? Why?
2. What are the primary arguments and theses for Schweikart and Zinn in their discussions of Declaration of Independence and Constitution? Who are the respective heroes and villains? On what facts/issues do they agree? Which narrative do you find yourself most agreeing with? Why?
3. You have read two visions of the United States. Pick one of the two eras you read about either the early colonial period or the Revolutionary-Constitutional period and write a one to two page history of that period from your perspective.

Have a Great Summer!
Mr. Hoogerzeil