

## **AP US History Summer Assignment 2018**

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 a lot of work, but if you 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. The reading is fairly straightforward and shouldn't take a tremendous amount of time. It consists of one novel (of your choosing) and your textbook.

Your summer assignment is as follows:

1. **Read Chapters 1 and 2 of your textbook** , *America's History AP Course*, 8th edition (You should order this now, and won't have to purchase later, ISBN-13: 978-1457628931). Because the AP Exam occurs in EARLY MAY, we are often pressed for time. These early chapters will be reviewed in class but we will move through them very quickly, therefore, you must have already read them in order to keep up with the rest of the class. There will be a reading exam on these chapters within the first 2 weeks of school. I encourage you to outline these chapters in your notes.

**2. Choose ONE of the following historical fiction novels to read and reflect upon in an essay. (Due Friday, August 24)**

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 7 AP US themes are reflected in the chosen book. You can find the themes on the college board website and throughout your textbook.

-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.

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Colonial and Native American: *Caleb's Crossing*,  
Geraldine Brooks

American West : *Doc* , Mary Doria Russell *My Antonia* , Willa Cather

Westward expansion - spanning several generations  
*Gilead* , Marilynne Robinson

Civil War : *Lincoln in the Bardo* , George Saunders or *Cold Mountain* , Charles Frazier or *March* , Geraldine Brooks

Gilded Age

\**Devil in the White City* , Erik Larson or *In Sunlight, In a Beautiful Garden*, Kathleen Cambor or *Martin Dressler* , Steven Millhauser

Early 1900s America

*Winesburg, Ohio* , Sherwood Anderson *Ragtime* , E.L. Doctorow

Depression Era

\**Seabiscuit* , Laura Hillenbrand

WWII

*Snow Falling on Cedars* , David Guterson or *Plot Against America* , Philip Roth

Vietnam

*The Things They Carried* , Tim O'Brien

African-American History, *Homegoing* , Yaa Gyasi

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

