

Hello Future AP United States History Student,

You are receiving this email because YOU have signed up to take AP United States History for the Fall of 2024!!! How exciting! I am so glad that you decided to make this choice to take APUSH next year! I am excited to have the opportunity to teach you about one of my favorite subjects to teach, the History of the United States. In my eyes, it is so crucial to understand our history and to understand not just what a textbook says our history is. Throughout this year, we will look at various contemporary and past historians' views of our history and give you different perspectives to have a well-rounded understanding of our nation's history. APUSH takes us from 1491 (Native American prior to Columbus) all the way through to the present time.

This course has a significant amount of content knowledge that is needed to be successful. I do not want that to scare you. I have heard time and time again from students that this is a difficult class in terms of content knowledge BUT it is a manageable and a rewarding class that will prepare you not only for the AP test but will teach you the skills to succeed in college.

Because of the amount of information that is needed to be covered, I want you to get a jump start on our chapter readings. Over the course of the APUSH course, each week, you will have a chapter from the textbook book and notes to complete. This is the bulk of your homework outside of class. For the summer assignment, what I need you to do is complete the Period 1 Reading prior to class starting in August. The first unit is covered in Chapter 1. For the assignment, you will take notes, utilizing the Cornell Method of notes. Doing your reading and taking your notes is so critically important to your success in the course and on the AP Test. The Cornell Method of notetaking is the most effective way, to take notes in a history course. It allows you to process what you learned versus just regurgitation of the notes. Here are two resources for you on the Cornell Note Method that can help you understand how to effectively take the notes while you read:

Why Cornell Notes Method: <https://thinkinsights.net/consulting/cornell-method-great-notes/>

Video of Cornell Notes Explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDfdEMTrbSk>

Textbook Part 1 and Part 2 are attached as well.

All Notes are to be HANDWRITTEN not typed and will be kept in a binder and not on a computer. This will do TWO things:

- Handwriting helps a student to process and retain information better than typing notes as it forces you to think about what you are putting on the paper and not just copying and pasting information into a document.
- You need to practice your handwriting as most students have become use to keyboarding and in this course you will be required to complete an essay writing portion on the AP exam where you will have to write clearly and quickly for about 2 hours.

Please organize your notes by:

- Clearly labeling the Chapter and the pages that you are summarizing in the Upper Right-hand corner of the page. You might also consider Numbering the pages
- Do not be afraid of adding highlighted information into your notes as this will help you see critical information easily.
- Use notebook paper that you can organize into a 3- ring binder (you will need a 3" binder for class

and this type of paper helps you easily divide your paper for Cornell Notes.)

Suggestions for finding what is important and deciding what to include so that you remember in May what you read in August.

- Read through the Focus Questions at the beginning of each chapter and pay attention to any markings and questions in the margin of the chapter.
- Read through the section, taking notes on the major topics, key points, or information you feel you will need to study. Stop at the end of a paragraph or section and ask yourself:
 - What did I just read about?
 - Are there any words I do not know? If so – Go, look them up!
 - Why is this important information?
 - How does this connect to something that I already know?
 - Can this help me understand how or why something else happened?
 - Do I know how this information fits into the time frame of history?
- In your notes, summarize what you read and put in the extra information that you might have connected with. Do not just copy “words” from the book. If you can put them in your own words that means you understand.
- Do not just write down a list of places, people, and events with dates—write a description of what the person did that was significant and why. Remember, there are a lot of facts the goal is to understand “how” to use those facts.
- Look at the end of the chapter and find the vocabulary list- all of those word should appear somewhere in your notes. That does not mean that you have to list all of definitions. The words or phrases may be within another note that you took. Be sure that when you put those important words in your notes that you include a paraphrase of the meaning of the word.
- As you are reading, if you come across a section you do not understand or think of a valuable question- put that in the margins of your notes so that you can remember to ask in class when we cover the information. In this class, you will be reading and taking notes ahead of class not during or after we have talked about it. The idea is that you have some background knowledge when we cover it in class so that you can start think about the material in a deeper way for a more complex understanding.
- This class and book jump around a lot with regards to events and timelines. I would suggest that you print a copy of the timelines that appear in the chapter to help you anchor the events. Look for example on page 6 of Chapter 1.
- DO NOT SKIP the pictures and illustrations. Read the information underneath. You will see some of them again on tests and quizzes.
- Do not forget to fill out the bottom of your Cornell note by summarizing the information on that page or section- that is the most important part. Think to yourself, “How would I explain what I just learned to a classmate”?

Optional Reading:

US History is an amazing area of study with lots of areas to dig in deep depending on your interests. One of the things I like to do is to think about how certain events are critical to the timeline. Good historians are always asking questions about change and continuity and cause and effect. If you have time and you would like you have the option to read:

[10 Days That Unexpectedly Changes America](#) □ ISBN-13 : 978-0307339348

This also has a video series that I will use part of in class. Please make sure that you are ordering the book and not the video series.

For those who would like to know the textbook we will be using for next year, here is the information. You will be receiving a digital and hardcopy of the text in August.

Give me Liberty: An American Story, Eric Foner, 6th edition. ISBN-13 : 978-0393697018

[Link to book on Amazon](#)

If there is another area of history, you would like to read about and would like book recommendations. Send me an email and I will see what I can find for you ☺

Have a great summer! Our American Adventure begins in August

Ms Kahre