

Gentlemen,

Welcome to AP United States History (APUSH)! For most, if not all, of you, this will be your first Advanced Placement course. Taking an AP class in your sophomore year will not be easy; however, if you work hard and “trust the process”, you will succeed. As this is a challenging course with rapid pacing, I need you to get a head start on the material this summer. APUSH starts at the Age of Exploration, which is a topic you covered in World History. You will be learning Period 1 (1491-1607) and part of Period 2 (1607-1754) on your own this summer.

Your assignment:

- A) Read Ch.1 (“Indigenous America”) of the online textbook *The American Yawp*. It is linked here: <https://www.americanyawp.com/index.html>. Then, you will begin your first preparation for answering free-response questions on the AP Exam. I have written three prompts for you to answer. You are to choose **two** out of the three to answer in essay form. All of the information you need to respond to these prompts is in Ch. 1 of the online textbook; however, you do not need to make citations. Each answer should be approximately 500-600 words in length (roughly two pages). These essays will be due as a **hard copy (printed) on orientation day**.

The prompts are as follows:

- What were some of the major features of American Indian civilizations before Europeans arrived? What were some of the major changes to those civilizations created by European colonization?
- What factors allowed Europeans to be able to explore and conquer the North American continent? What were their motivations for doing so?
- How was the Aztec civilization arguably the technological, social, military, and civic equal to European civilizations? If that was so, how did it fall so easily?

- B) Procure and read the book *Taking Manhattan: The Extraordinary Events That Created New York and Shaped America* by Russell Shorto. This is a new book (released in March) from an author whose previous work and writing style I find highly engaging. I am excited to read this book along with you this summer. Material from this book will be included on the **Period Two test, which is within the first three weeks of school**.

Feel free to email me over the summer if you have any questions. I will try to respond as quickly as I can. Completing this assignment will allow us to move quickly through the colonial period so we can stay on schedule for the year.

Enjoy your summers!

- Mr. Murphy -