

AP US History

Summer Assignments and Contract

Dear APUSH Student:

Please read this introduction letter and sign the contract at the bottom of the last page. This must be signed and returned to me via email or in person, by Friday, May 23, 2025.

Congratulations on accepting the challenge of taking APUSH for the 2025-2026 school year. For those of you who took WHAP, you will find this class a little more challenging but have the same elements. For those who took Honors World History, you will find a greater degree of challenge as you learn about the expectations of an AP course, especially the testing practices. Please be aware of the grading breakdown for all Social Studies AP courses – Formative 8%, Summative 72%, and Exam 20%. All summative tests will be AP-style questions and grading practices.

Due to the tremendous amount of information covered in the course throughout the year and the earliness of the AP test (May 7), a summer assignment over the first six chapters is a must. Please complete the following assignments before you return to school in August. Do not put this off until the last minute, as this is a very time-consuming assignment. You are receiving this seven to eight weeks before we meet in August, and we typically cover content in chunks and quickly. So, this assignment is a good example of the pace we need to follow once school starts and the expectations of you as an AP student. As this is a REQUIREMENT for this course, please be aware that students who do not complete this assignment as expected and on time will be asked to change their course to Honors Dual Enrollment US History.

Below is listed the summer assignments, as well as the course syllabus and supplies list. You will find the assignment sheets with questions, terms, and events to define and know at a deep level. These assignments will be due on the first day of class. Most work is completed by hand and turned in (not submitted to Canvas). You will be tested on the information found in the reading of Chapters 1-6 during the first month of school, and the material for these chapters will only be briefly discussed in class. You must take notes on your reading of all six chapters assigned this summer. Note outlines are provided. Our book is *The American Pageant* by David M. Kennedy (16th Edition). You will need a **hard copy** and there are many gently used ones available on Amazon or from former students for about \$20. Do not buy the most recent edition or a brand-new copy. **You will need this sooner rather than later to complete your summer assignment.** I highly encourage reaching out to a current student in APUSH and asking to purchase their book. I provide oral readings

of almost all chapters in the Canvas course, so you may listen as you read or do a YouTube search. This book is designed specifically for AP courses, so it may be different from other history books you have used. It is also required that you purchase [Barron's AP US History Premium](#) for an average of \$15. The expectations and grading for the AP tests changed 2 years ago and this is the most updated study and practice material. You may also wish to purchase [AP US History Crash Course](#). It runs about \$11, but as of right now has not been updated for the most ret changes. It does do a great job of emphasizing content and important terms, events, etc. needed for success on the AP test. Additionally, you may wish to purchase [AMSCO Advanced Placement US History](#). It runs about \$25 on Amazon, but is quite in-depth and makes strong connections, contextualization, and complexity, which are some key points on the AP test. In addition, please note, the APUSH test on May 7th will be **online**; there is no paper version available. Therefore, tests will also be online to mimic what you will see in May.

The major expectation for this class is that no late work will be accepted. Please note this right now, no late homework or classwork is accepted, period. Failure to do work in a timely manner or turn in work as expected, regardless of how much is completed in class, will result in low grades. As should be expected, this is a fast-paced, college-level course. Homework will take time and be chunked days apart, which will require time management skills. Students who wait to complete their homework the night before it is due will not be successful in this class, regardless of how successful they are in other classes doing the same thing. If you have sports, drama, clubs, work, or other non-academic activities, please note that school comes first, and you must communicate with me in advance of absences or complications due to these activities. Remember, the course is fast-paced, and it will force you to work at a higher level. You will be responsible for keeping up with the work and for the information we do not cover in class. Thus, if you do what you are assigned, you will set yourself up to do very well in this class. However, if you are looking to take short cuts (i.e. not reading, using internet notes instead of course work, not taking lecture notes, not reading the supplements, not turning in your work on time, etc.), you will set yourself up for disappointment. **Please note, two factors are imperative if you wish to succeed in the class and do well on the National AP U.S. History exam: 1) You MUST do all required readings and assignments and 2) You must be willing to participate fully and actively in class.** You will succeed and do well on the AP test in May if you do these two things and you push yourself to achieve at the highest level you can. However, if you are not taking this course with the expectation of doing your best and passing the national test in May, you need to strongly consider taking the dual-enrollment United States History course instead, as your grade will be based on AP guidelines. Your effort from start to finish will be THE determining factor in the end. This is a cumulative course, so you cannot simply

“turn it on” and expect to do well on the final or national exams. Therefore, you need to be actively engaged in the material from the beginning to set yourself up to succeed on the National AP U.S. History test in May 2026. Ultimately, the ability to succeed or fail is completely up to you.

Assignment Directions:

Thoroughly read the assigned chapters (1-6) and complete the provided [notes packet](#). This should be completed by HAND, so you will need to print it out if you did not receive a copy during the initial meeting in May. The notes packet is divided into four sections. The Princeton Review section follows the book readings (although not necessarily in order – it should be an in-depth understanding of the reading) and is where you should emphasize the major points and include any bolded terms, people, events. This way of reading is essential to understanding how events and people make connections across time, which is a vital skill to possess for the AP exam. The Crash Course section contains questions that follow along with John Green’s Crash Course videos. The videos are linked in the title. All questions require at least one complete sentence. Part 3 is a timeline of events. This requires important bullet points of the event. The final section is the learning targets for the period. Learning targets are what the College Board expects students to understand at a deep level for each period to be successful on the AP Exam. You should be able to explain the learning targets in a solid paragraph or two.

Once you’ve completed these, please keep them in a safe place. You will hand these in on the first day of school. This is required in order to stay enrolled in APUSH.

Information to be prepared for the first day of school:

- Read the [syllabus](#) carefully and sign the contract. You will hand this in or email it to me by no later than May 22nd. There will be more information and opportunities to ask questions on the first day of school.
- Purchase needed supplies – these need to be with you in class every day.
 - Books listed earlier in this letter.
 - A 1.5 or 2 in. binder – it is not recommended that you have a folder, due to the number of papers you will collect. This class is cumulative for the year, so notes from August are just as important in the end as notes from April.
 - Blue or black pens

- Pencils
- Highlighters – I suggest at least 3 colors.
- A single-subject notebook or 3-ringed loose-leaf paper

If you have any questions about what is expected of you, you will need to contact me via e-mail at bchudzinski@ndpsaints.org. I will be checking my e-mail from home throughout the summer and will get back to you as soon as possible to answer your questions. I will not be available June 25 – July 9, as I will be on a pilgrimage in Ireland and Scotland. I will hold our class in my prayers each day for a successful year.

Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you in August and working with you throughout the year. This class is a lot of fun, but it is also a lot of hard work. I am excited to see you all step up to the challenge of taking APUSH!

Sincerely,

Ms. Chud 😊

Summer Work and Understanding Contract

I understand the importance of completing the summer assignments to find success in APUSH next year. I realize that completing this work will improve my reading and note-taking skills and prepare me for the first day of classes. So, I promise to complete the work assigned in a timely manner and submit the assignments on the first day of school 2025. This will also guide me in the expectations for the semester. I understand that waiting until the last minute to complete assignments will not do me any good and will possibly result in poor grades. **I am the master of my success and am committed to ensuring my success!**

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date