Welcome to AP US History

with Ms. Herting and Mr. Jansen

The 2026-2027 school year will be a very busy one as we prepare ourselves for a rigorous Advanced Placement examination in May. Since this is a college-level course, that requires extensive background knowledge in all aspects of US History, it is imperative that we get off the ground running in August. As such, every APUSH student will be required to complete the following summer reading assignments:

A.P. U.S. History Summer Reading Assignments 2026

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

Late Work: Any late work is 50% off your total grade on that assignment.

Academic Integrity: You are expected to do ALL work on your own. Your work is to reflect your own thoughts and ideas!

Handwritten Work: When you hand write, you MUST use PEN. No pencil.

Submission: All work can be emailed to Ms. Herting or handed in on or before the 1st day of class.

****Extra Credit Opportunity:** Please make sure you see the last page for this assignment!

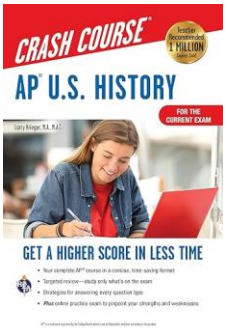
The Assignment

The first portion of your summer homework is from ***Crash Course: AP US History***. You will need to purchase this book before the start of school.

Purchase on Amazon: Crash Course AP US History

Read and annotate Chapters 3–5 of *Crash Course*. Then complete the definitions and short answer questions below.

Note: *Annotating means both highlighting AND writing notes in the margins.*



Part 1: Definitions

Define each of the following 14 terms. (Not all definitions are found in *Crash Course*.)

Terms 1–7	Terms 8–14
1. Conquistadors	8. Mercantilism
2. Encomienda System	9. London Company
3. Protestant Reformation	10. House of Burgess

4. First Great Awakening	11. Enlightenment
5. First Great Migration	12. Columbian Exchange
6. Virginia Company	13. Church of England
7. Act of Toleration	14. The Iroquois Confederacy

Part 2: Short Answer Questions

Answer each of the following 7 questions completely. (Answers may not correspond to *Crash Course* chapters.)

1. Explain the impact of the conquistadors on the Natives of Latin and South America.
2. What were the basic motivations for settlement of the joint stock company that bankrolled the Jamestown colony?
3. Why was the survival rate so low for the English settlers of early Virginia?
4. What was the Headright system and how did this policy promote British migration to the New World?
5. Describe the early relationship between the Virginia colonists and the local native Indian tribes. What happened in 1622 that changed this?
6. Why did Virginia eventually become a royal colony? What were the circumstances leading up to this?
7. Why was Maryland founded? How did this colony differ from Virginia?

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

Email Ms. Herting a digital picture of you reading *Crash Course* in an interesting place or location. In the past, students have been photographed while rafting down the Snake River, hiking in the Rocky Mountains, or boating on the Gulf of Mexico. Be creative!

Deadline: The picture must be received before **August 18th**. Put your name in the email and send the picture as an attachment.

Email: sherting@communityschoolnaples.org

All work can be emailed to Ms. Herting or handed in on or before the 1st day of class. | Handwritten work must be completed in pen — no pencil.