

# AP United States History 2011-2012 Summer Reading Assignment American Community School Amman

Mr. Greer

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Welcome to AP United States History. I congratulate you on your choice to undertake the challenge and rigor a college-level course such as AP U.S. offers. AP U.S. History is a **college-level course** which will require you to have **extensive background knowledge** in U.S. History.

Since this is a **college-level course** which requires **extensive background knowledge** in all aspects of U.S. History, it is critical that we hit the ground running in September 2011. As such, every AP U.S. History student will be required to complete the following summer reading assignments *before* the first day of school, **Tuesday, 6 September 2011**. The AP U.S History Exam is scheduled on **Friday, 4 May 2012**.

## Your Assignments:

1. Please email Mr. Greer at [Lgreer@acsamman.edu.jo](mailto:Lgreer@acsamman.edu.jo) as soon as possible.
2. Read the first 5 chapters from the course text, *The American Pageant*, which can be found and downloaded from the ACS website. You will need Adobe Reader in order to open the pdf files.
  - Take reading notes on each chapter. These notes will be checked the first time that class meets. Your goal in each chapter is to reduce a 30 page section to no more than 3 pages of notes using the format explained below.
  - The format for your notetaking is based on the headings in your textbook.
  - Divide you notes by subsections. (Subsections can be found by examining the bold print and font size and/or outline at the beginning of the chapter)
    - ✓ See the attachment entitled *AP US History Notetaking* for more specific guidance.
3. Students must read *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, by James W. Loewen.
  - This book will help you begin critically thinking about U.S. History. Loewen argues that the 12 textbooks he has surveyed represent U.S. History with unquestioning patriotism, optimism, misinformation, and boldface lies.
  - You will need to answer the questions from the reading, which are included in this packet. Email your answers to Mr. Greer at [Lgreer@acsamman.edu.jo](mailto:Lgreer@acsamman.edu.jo) before 6 September following the directions noted for how to save your electronic file.
  - Take notes on your reading which you will need to consult throughout the year when we discuss topics from history which correspond with a chapter in *Lies*. You will need to include your notes with your chapter reading notes when all notes are checked on the first day of class.
4. Students will need to purchase the following book for use during the school year:
  - *U.S History Skillbook: With Historical Thinking Skills, Essay Skills, and Document Analysis*, by Michael Henry, PhD. Actually copies **have been ordered for all in the class and students will be required to pay the ACS business office for their copy when school begins**. The cost will be about 25JD.
5. Materials Needed
  - A **three (3) inch**, three ring binder
  - Loose leaf paper
  - Plenty of blue and black ink pens

6. Suggestions for additional resources to aid you in your study of United States History:
- *Threads of History*, by Michael Henry, PhD, ISBN: 1-4138-1344-5
    - ✓ This is a thematic review book for students; another way to process the vast quantities of information encountered during the school year. It contains many thematic charts and multiple choice practice questions.
  - *United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination*, by John Newman and John Schmalbach, ISBN: 1-56765-660-9
    - ✓ This is a good resource for review of concepts and material covered in class. It also has a full exam and multiple choice questions at the end of each unit.
  - *A Short History of the United States*, by Robert Remini, ISBN: 978-0-06-083144-8
    - ✓ This 300 page book by Remini covers all of U.S. History up to President Obama's election in 2008. A good resource for getting the abridged version of history and is more current than the course text in terms of Clinton's and George W. Bush's terms in office.

#### The First Week of School: September 2011

1. On the first day that class meets your notes will be checked.
2. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> time class meets you will take a 50 item multiple choice test over the first 5 chapters of the course textbook.
3. The third class meeting you will write an essay about a topic from the Loewen reading.

## AP U.S. History Reading Notes Format

For each chapter you are assigned to read in the course textbook, you required to take notes in the following format:

### Chapter 1: New World Beginnings

Write a summary sentence for the entire chapter.

#### Shaping of North America

Summary sentence for section.

- You will need to identify subheadings and indent specific evidence from that section which support your summary sentence so that your notes look like an outline format.
  - Additional specific evidence
  - More specific evidence

#### Peopling the Americans

Summary sentence for section.

- Subheading
  - Specific evidence from that section which support your summary sentence.
  - Additional specific evidence
- Subheading #2
  - More specific evidence

#### The Earliest Americans

Summary sentence for section.

- Subheading
  - Specific evidence from that section which support your summary sentence.
  - Additional specific evidence
  - More specific evidence

Continue this process for each subsection of the entire chapter. There can be more than 3 specific pieces of evidence in each section but make sure that what you have selected is relevant in supporting the section summary sentence. If it is not then either the facts are not important and can be omitted or you need to rethink your summary statement.

AP US History  
*Lies My Teacher Told Me* Questions

Directions:

1. After reading the book *Lies*, answer each of the following questions and email your responses to Mr. Greer at [Lgreer@acsamman.edu.jo](mailto:Lgreer@acsamman.edu.jo).
  2. Your answers must be typed, double-spaced, size 12 font using a standard font saved in a Microsoft Word document (not pdf or Wordpad) where the text is left-side aligned.
  3. Some answers might require a few sentences (1 paragraph) while others may need 2 or more paragraphs to answer. Your goal is to answer them as completely as possible, giving textual support where necessary. These questions are listed in the order they are discussed in the book.
  4. Remember to take notes while you are reading; we will discuss this book at different points throughout the year. This will impact your quarterly participation mark.
  5. Please title your electronic file in the following manner: Last name/first name initial(one word) underscore Lies Questions underscore APUS.doc (ex: GreerL\_Lies Questions\_APUS.doc)
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1. What is heroification? Why is heroification a bad thing?
2. Why don't textbooks address the shortcomings of historical figures?
3. Why is chapter 2 entitled "1493"?
4. Why do American History textbooks promote the belief that the most important developments in world history are traceable to Europe?
5. What is Loewen's dilemma with focusing so much attention on Columbus?
6. What are some of the myths surrounding Columbus according to Loewen?
7. What are some myths of the First Thanksgiving? What are some truths?
8. What are some of your recollections of the portrayals of Native Americans in your history textbooks? Do they differ or are they the same as the accounts in the books that Loewen surveyed?
9. Why do American textbooks gloss over events between Native Americans and white-Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries?
10. What examples does Loewen cite to show the invisibility of racism in U.S. History?
11. How has slavery impacted foreign policy and territorial expansion in the U.S.?
12. What is meant by the Confederate myth?
13. What examples does Loewen cite to show the invisibility of antiracism in U.S textbooks?
14. Why do U.S. textbooks routinely leave out issue of social and economic inequality?
15. Do textbooks paint a realistic picture of the American federal government? Why or why not? Be sure to include specific examples from *Lies*.
16. Why do US History textbooks gloss over the recent past? What, according to you, is the last date for history vs. current events? (do events in 2005 count as history? Or 2000? 1995? Earlier?)
17. What do the last chapters of US History textbooks convey, according to Loewen?
18. What are Loewen's solutions to the problems in US History textbooks?
19. The course you are enrolled in next year is called AP United States History and not AP American History. What messages to titles convey? In your opinion, is this distinction important? Why or why not?
20. Please type a brief paragraph outlining your expectation(s) for this course.