

**APUSH Summer Reading**  
**(Advanced Placement United States History)**

To future APUSH students,

The 2014 summer reading for APUSH is entirely online using the Edmodo website and is designed to give you a head start on what is a very demanding course. All you have to do is use the following URL to find the site and then sign in using the group code.

URL: <https://edmo.do/j/cydjwf>

Group Code: skzcdq

Once you are on the website your first assignment is to create a complete profile including a valid e-mail. It is inevitable that some of you will forget your login or password so the e-mail is the most important part. As the summer progresses new documents and assignments will be updated every few weeks focusing on Pre-Columbian Societies to Early Colonial Period, call it 33,000 BCE to 1690 CE. While it is not necessary to do all assignments as they are posted it is important to check back regularly and try to be at least familiar with the material before school starts.

As most assignments will be short, I encourage you to make use of this opportunity to get ahead and to get a feel for what APUSH work will be like.

During the summer the following will be available on Edmodo:

- Class syllabus (after approval by the College Board)
- Primary source reading with online discussion questions
- Note taking instructions
- Chapter 1 study guide
- PDF copy of chapter 1
- An online sample of chapter 1 exam questions (when available from publisher)
- An online sample of chapter 1 reading quiz questions

Please let your parents know about the site as well. There are separate parent accounts and your parents will have to sign a notice for the website in August and one of your first grades should be an online family history anyway so might as well become familiar with it now.

If you have any questions regarding the summer reading e-mail me at [Joshua.Hill@fortbend.k12.tx.us](mailto:Joshua.Hill@fortbend.k12.tx.us)

Have a wonderful summer and I will see you in August,  
Joshua Hill  
Lawrence E. Elkins  
Advanced Placement United States History

## **General class information – from the syllabus**

### **What is APUSH**

This course is designed to increase the student's understanding of United States History from its beginning to the present, its development and institutions. The goals of the class are to develop (1.) an understanding of some of the principle themes in early and modern U.S. History, (2.) an ability to analyze historical evidence, and (3.) an ability to analyze and to express historical understanding in writing and other forms of communication.

A.P. U.S. History is a rigorous, fast paced and challenging course designed to be the equivalent of a college freshman U.S. History survey course. Students should possess strong reading and writing skills and be willing to devote substantial time to study and the completion of class reading assignments. Emphasis is placed on class discussion, the use of primary and secondary sources, critical reading, and analytical writing. This course prepares students to take the College Board Advanced Placement United States History examination and possibly receive college credit.

Mastery of content is important, but of equal value is:

- study and analytical skills
- critical reading of primary and secondary sources
- making historical analogies
- constructing and evaluating historical interpretations
- using historical knowledge as a guide to present understanding and action
- empathizing with the past

Any AP class requires hard work and a commitment to intellectual growth. All students are strongly encouraged to dedicate themselves to the goals of AP U.S. History and to take the AP Exam at the end of the school year. I hope that you will be rewarded with a sense of accomplishment and the belief that even a rigorous class can be enjoyable.

### **Course Readings, Accountability and Independent Learning**

You are responsible for reading and studying the textbook The American Pageant (as well as ALL other readings). There will be a calendar located on the class website to assist you in this process. While some of the textbook will be discussed in detail through our class discussions, seminars, and debates, most of it will be covered through independent learning. You are responsible for ALL MATERIAL ASSIGNED, whether we discussed it in class or not.