

Advanced Placement United States History

Since this is a college-level course that requires extensive background knowledge we cannot waste any time preparing and need to hit the ground running in August. To do this, every AP USH student will be required to complete the following summer assignment that will be due on the first day of class.

History is not merely a recollection of dates and facts, but rather is an argument about the past. You will be expected to interpret, analyze and synthesize facts to make logical historical arguments. For your summer reading assignment I would like you to read a selection of chapters from *Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States"*.

Zinn is a rather controversial figure and his historical perspectives are often challenged. You are assigned this reading to challenge your thinking and to begin to understand how historical events can be interpreted in different ways. Daniel Flynn writes an article called *Howard Zinn's Biased History*. I have included a link to it and asked you to write a reflection comparing Flynn and Zinn.

The assignments are listed below. *All assignments must be completed as specified for credit.*

Assignment #1: *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn

1. Read chapters 1, 2, 5, and 9. In addition students will need to choose THREE other chapters to read. You can order it on Amazon, find it at this website:
<http://www.historyisaweapon.com/innapeopleshistory.html>
2. For each chapter you will provide a summary that addresses the major components of each chapter along with the answer to the following questions/prompts.
 - a. What is the thesis of the chapter? Summarize the thesis in your own words and provide textual evidence for the thesis.
 - b. How is Zinn's argument different from "traditional" history? Provide textual evidence for this.
3. Answer the following essay question. **No typed essays please.** Please put your name (first, last) in the upper right-hand corner, followed by the date on the next line. This essay will be graded as your first test grade and will be graded according to the AP rubric, and should include a thesis and be written in proper essay format. Blue or Black ink only.
 - a. Zinn proposes the argument that he is telling history from the people and not from those in power. Support, modify or refute that he challenges "traditional" history in **two** of the following topics:
 - Native Americans
 - American Revolution
 - Industrial Workers
 - American Civil War

Assignment #2 *Howard Zinn's Biased History* by Daniel Flynn

1. Read the article: <http://hnn.us/article/1493>
2. Write a 2-3 paragraph reflection on:
 - a. What are the differences between Zinn and Flynn?
 - b. What criticism does Flynn put forth of Zinn as a writer?
 - c. Which of these historians (Zinn or Flynn) would you rather have as your history teacher? Why?

Guidelines for your AP US History Long Essay Question (Based on the Zinn text)

Argument (Thesis)

- Contains a clear, well-developed thesis that addresses all components of the question. Is NOT a repeat of the prompt.

Critical Thought

- In-depth, effective analysis addressing differing sources and content
- Relevance of outside knowledge to the argument.

Evidence-

- Supports thesis with substantial, relevant information
- Demonstrates a strong command of outside sources to inform the response
- There is a comprehensive explanation and high degree of relevance
- Provides effective analysis of change over time; emphasis placed on the question topic.
- May contain minor errors

Writing Style-

- Is well organized and well written
- Proper sentence structure and mechanics is evident
- Proper MLA format for works cited and parenthetical notations is used (if required)
- Meets required length, font, margins and numbering sequence

Synthesis

- Counterargument and development; additional appropriate area of analysis/connects to other historical periods, geographical contexts, or circumstances

If you find you need help over the summer, please contact me at my school email. I am available on a limited basis through the summer. Your questions and concerns should come to me before August 5, 2016.