## **AP US History Summer Assignment FALL 2023**

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## **Welcome to AP US History!**

APUSH is a tremendously rewarding survey course study of American History that replicates a college-level history course. As such, there will be a large amount of reading, writing, and historical analysis you will be expected to perform, both in class and at home. Due to the nature of the course, it is difficult to get through all of the required information in time for the APUSH exam in May. Because of this, a summer assignment is necessary to help you understand APUSH Historical Period 1 (Exploration and Colonization) so that we can jump straight into Period 2 (The British Colonies) when school starts. The assignments below will help you better understand the themes and key concepts of Period 1. **Your entire summer assignment will be due the 2nd day of class, and there will be a quiz and test within the first week of school.**

## **Textbook information**

In order to be successful in the class, you will need to read and take notes. We do not spoon feed content in APUSH, you are expected to read your book and take notes, and then come to class with that basic factual knowledge, which you’ll use in a variety of activities.

Because you are expected to read, we will be using the book [America’s History, 8th Edition by Henretta](https://www.amazon.com/Americas-History-High-School-Launchpad/dp/1457673827/ref%3Dsr_1_2?qid=1684790267&refinements=p_27%3AJames+A.+Henretta&s=books&sr=1-2&text=James+A.+Henretta). Purchase of the textbook will **not** be required, but it is highly encouraged if you prefer to make annotations/notes while reading. It is a far easier read than the district textbook, and best of all, since you’ve purchased it, you can annotate and highlight to your heart’s content.

While a new copy is nice, it is unnecessary. You can save money by buying a used copy from Half Price Books, Amazon, Thriftbooks, or any other used book retailer. Looking at Amazon right now, there are plenty of used copies. I do suggest looking at the description to try to get as clean a copy as you can so that it doesn’t interfere with your own annotations.

**\* We start using the book from Day 1, so you need to have your copy when school starts.\***

The district issued textbook is American History 15th Edition by Alan Brinkley (Publisher: McGraw Hill), but we don’t recommend it because it is too dense for this kind of a survey course. *You may certainly use this book if you choose, just be aware that it is a much more dense book and will require quite a bit more reading.*

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**Supplies**

For supplies we recommend

- a 1-2in binder (some students do one binder per semester, while others take all of the first semester material out in January and just reuse that binder for second semester)

- 10 tabs (we use one for each of the 9 historical periods, and then there are usually 1-3 units within each historical period, but I think tabs are only sold in packs of 5 or 10)

- the usual black or blue pens, and pencils

## **The Summer Assignment**

There are multiple parts, so spread this out a bit over the summer, and don’t try to squeeze it all in the weekend before school starts.

**1**) Read and take *thorough* notes over the summer reading. The summer reading covers Chapter 1 of the Henretta book (You’ll start on Chapter 2 once school starts). This is a college-level course and is much more detail heavy than AP World, so you must read and take notes over the readings in order to help you memorize and better understand the material. You will be expected to discuss and write about the information from the readings the first week of school.

We do have reading quizzes over each chapter of the book, and everything from the chapter is fair game on both quizzes and tests. Be sure to look over any primary sources included in all readings.

([Studies show that handwritten notes help you retain info better and longer than typed notes.](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/taking-notes-by-hand-could-improve-memory-wt/))

While you don’t need to write down the vocab, it is highly recommended that you familiarize yourself with those terms as you may see them on quizzes and tests.

For your note taking, we do recommend 2 column notes, *but not necessarily Cornell*. The left side will be for reading notes from the Henretta book, while the right side will be for notes/annotations to your reading notes using lecture videos (you’ll see more about this in step 2

The Henretta book is organized in such a way that it makes note-taking easy:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Henretta notes**Subheading* Notes
* Notes
* Notes
* Summary of the section
 | **Video Notes**Slide title* Write down information
* from the video
* and note anything that is mentioned here and in the Henretta book
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You’ll be taking reading quizzes for each chapter in the book (yes, all 31) and are required to turn your chapter notes in with each one.

**2**) There is no one perfect textbook that has everything you need to know for APUSH, so in order to help reinforce what you’ve read in Henretta and be fully prepared for unit tests and the AP Exam, students are encouraged to watch companion lecture videos. This is not optional, the vast majority of students who do well in this course take notes over both the book and these videos. Here is the [Heimler APUSH Unit 1 Playlist](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_3bH6FJsLA&list=PLEHRHjICEfDUkwlhx0SFi4-dgPI82_Wn3&index=1). As you watch, add things to your reading notes using that right hand column. Anything that shows up in both the Henretta book and the Heimler video is clearly important and should be emphasized in your notes; highlighting, \*stars\*, **color coding**, whatever will help it stand out. But understand that anything brought up in Henretta and the Heimler videos is essential information and may show up on the Unit tests and/or the APUSH exam.

**3**) Answer the questions (2-3 sentences) in the Historical Period 1 Review Sheet. Use the reading and the videos to help you complete each question. These questions must be completed by the second day of school!

If you have any questions during the summer, please feel free to email.