

## AP American History

You textbook will be “The American Pageant.” You will get your copy of the text at the beginning of the school year. If you have any questions, you may email me at [lorikking@yahoo.com](mailto:lorikking@yahoo.com). I will get back to you as soon as I can. Have a great summer and enjoy reading!!!

### Summer Reading Assignment :

1. Choose 5 chapters from the following book that you think would be interesting to read about:

A People’s History of the United States: 1492 – Present by Howard Zinn  
ISBN 0-06-052837-0

You may purchase this book or borrow it from our library. There are both hardback and paperback editions. The hardback can run about \$30 new and the paperback about \$12 new. Of course, you may be able to find it at half price books or on-line for less. Let me know if you have problems getting the book.

### **2. Journal. (Can be typed or hand written, scored separately from the Critical Review)**

For each chapter of the book, write your reaction to what you have read. You may also recap or summarize the information included in the chapter in order to help you write your critical review of these chapters. Therefore, your journal will have 5 entries. Take time to journal well and your paper will be a breeze!

### **3. A Critical Review of the chapters you read:**

Type (double spaced) leaving generous margins. Include the information specified below. Edit your draft and keep a copy of your final effort. Final paper should be one to three pages in length.

- Describe the chapters you chose in general terms. What issues do they address? What time period do they address?
- Identify any major thesis you can discern. The major thesis would reflect the author’s general point of view or belief.
- Explain the author’s main contentions and discuss them giving evidence (concrete details from the book and analysis).
- Deliver chief objections and summarize shortcomings. If you find errors, mention the important ones.
- Address the following:
  - How did reading these chapters change your conception of the topic?
  - What additional work needs to be done in order to clear up doubtful points?
  - What gaps still need to be filled?
- Give information about the author.
- End by summarizing your opinion of the merits and faults of the chapters you read.
- Paper is to be 7-10 paragraphs. **Use one paragraph for each of the above points.**

4. Choose **3** of American history films such as the films listed below to watch over the summer. Be prepared to discuss them on the first day of class. You may choose a film not on the list just email me to let me know what you have chosen to make sure it fits the criteria. Fill out the attached worksheet for each film you watch. There is a copy on my web site of the worksheet and these directions. The school library has some historical films as well as the public library. Some of these films can be found on-line as well on Netflix, Amazon and YouTube.

Argo

A Soldier's Story

All the King's Men

Amistad

Apocalypse Now! (1979)

All the President's Men (1976)

Citizen Kane

Fat Man, Little Boy

Frost-Nixon

Glory

Gone with the Wind (1939)

Good Night and Good Luck

Grapes of Wrath (1940)

Hacksaw Ridge

Hidden Figures

In the Heat of the Night (1968)

Inherit the Wind

Iron Angels

Lincoln

Little Big Man (1970)

Monuments Men

Norma Rae

Patton (1970)

Selma

Silkwood

The China Syndrome

The Fog of War

The Good Shepherd

The Great Debaters

The Last of the Mohicans (1992)

The Patriot

The Crucible (1996)

The Right Stuff (1983)

Tombstone

Truman

United 93

Wall Street

Warm Springs

Wind Talkers

Zero Dark Thirty

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**\*\*\*All work is due the first day of class.** We will have a debriefing session or two within the first week of school. Be prepared for a rigorous year with tons of reading and writing. I look forward to a great year with you all!!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Historical Film Analysis Sheet

1. Film title: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Date of production: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Director: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **3 Main Characters**

#### **Actor/Actress**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. What is the historical event(s) portrayed in the film?

5. What are the approximate dates covered by the film?

6. Plot: The main action of the film. (what the film was about...more than just a sentence!)

7. Choose one scene or event from the film that was **NOT** historically accurate? Explain why you think Hollywood decided to change it. **\*\*\*(do some research to answer this question correctly)**

8. What underlying messages are portrayed in the film? (lessons, generalizations, moral message, conclusions, inferences...)

10. If you were a US History teacher, what 2 clips would you use to teach from this film? Why? **Explain at least two specific parts of the film.**