AP US History Summer Reading

Congrats! You have signed up for AP US History. We are going to have a lot of fun this year and hopefully learn a ton. Reading is a humongous part of this course, so it’s best we start preparing now! For your summer reading assignment, you will need to purchase a copy of the book: *A People’s History of the United States* by Howard Zinn. [Amazon link to purchase book here](https://www.amazon.com/Peoples-History-United-States-Present/dp/B0030MR076/ref=sr_1_1?crid=39N1W3QWJWKGF&keywords=a+peoples+history+of+the+united+states&qid=1684249269&sprefix=a+peoples+history%2Caps%2C88&sr=8-1). The book price typically runs from $15-$25, you may also borrow from someone else or the library.

Pick 5 chapters to read of your choice. Each chapter is around 20-30 pages and focuses on a separate topic.

You may skim through this [website](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-people-s-history-of-the-united-states/chapter-1-columbus-the-indians-and-human-progress) to help you get an idea of what each chapter is about and what you may want to read about. Pick something that may interest you! Each chapter covers a different topic. The book often tells the stories of American History from the perspective of the “loser” or the “minority” so please keep this in mind as well.

Chapters:

* Columbus, the Indians, and human progress
* Drawing the color line
* Persons of mean and vile condition
* Tyranny is tyranny
* A kind of revolution
* The intimately oppressed
* As long as grass grows or water runs
* We take nothing by conquest, thank God
* Slavery without submission, emancipation without freedom
* The other civil war
* Robber barons and rebels
* The empire and the people
* The socialist challenge
* War is the health of the state
* Self-help in hard times
* A people's war?
* "Or does it explode?"
* The impossible victory: Vietnam
* Surprises
* The seventies: under control?
* Carter-Reagan-Bush: the bipartisan consensus
* The unreported resistance
* The coming revolt of the guards
* The Clinton presidency
* The 2000 election and the "war on terrorism."

For each chapter complete both part 1 and part 2. This means that you will have a total of 10 responses. This should be completed electronically.

Part 1 (30% of overall grade):

* In Zinn’s A People’s History of the United States per chapter that you read, you must locate at least 1 author of a primary source used in the text. In one paragraph per author, you are to include: The specific quotation you are referencing, complete with chapter and page number. The quote’s significance within the text (what is the topic, how is it being used, is it effective in furthering Zinn’s point, what is the purpose or point of view of the primary source).
* You will have a response to part 1 for each chapter that you choose to read. Your response should be between 4-6 sentences.

Part 2 (70% of overall grade):

* For each chapter you will complete a critical analysis paragraph of the author and his argument. Your paragraph should answer the following questions:
  + What topic is Zinn covering in this chapter?
  + What is Zinn’s main argument in this chapter?
  + How does he support this argument?
  + How do Zinn’s tone and writing style contribute to his overall argument?
  + Do you agree with Zinn’s viewpoint on this topic? Why or why not?

*There is no sentence requirement for this paragraph, but it must fully answer the questions to receive full credit.*

Your assignment should follow the format below:

**Chapter 1 Part 1:** *write write write write write write write write*

**Chapter 1 Part 2:** *write write write write write write write write write*

**Chapter 5 Part 1:** *write write write write write write write write write*

**Chapter 5 Part 2:** *write write write write write write write write write*

Grading:

Part 1 is worth 30% overall and Part 2 is worth 70% overall. You will be graded based on the accuracy of your responses, if all questions are addressed correctly and appropriately in your writing, and if you demonstrate a clear knowledge of your reading using effort throughout. Plagiarism will result in a zero and further consequences.

Strategy:

I would highly recommend annotating while you read. As is the case with most of what we read in class, you do not need to get hung up on every single word and detail. Rather, you should look for the broad theme and argument that the author is seeking to convey. In total you should be reading around 100-150 pages total. This will not be bad if you break it up and do a little bit at a time, but will be difficult if you try to begin and complete the night before it is due.