

Dear A.P. U.S. History Student,

Welcome to Advanced Placement U.S. History! I am so excited to meet you in the fall!

Through the course of our APUSH class, we will cover the history of the United States from 1491 to roughly 2008. We will focus on particular themes such as the development of our national identity, political system and economic structure. As a class, we will explore history through the eyes of many different types of people and discuss events from a variety of perspectives. Most importantly, we will develop historical reasoning and critical thinking skills that you will use throughout your life in college and your career.

You will quickly recognize that I have a fairly unique teaching style. I make it my mission to view my students holistically- as a person and not just a student and to create a nurturing classroom environment. Through the use of hands on activities, role plays, and simulations, you will experience history in a way that is engaging and tangible. I hope to help you discover a love for history that you may not have had before. Whether you are an experienced AP student or this is your first AP course, I welcome you to my class and I know that I will enjoy watching you learn and grow. In order to support the success of all of my students, I make myself available before and after school as often as possible. I hold tutorials at least twice a week and I will also provide two review sessions immediately before each test. In past years, my students have benefited greatly from these sessions. I encourage all of you to reach out to me if you feel like you need additional support in any way.

There is no official summer assignment for this course, but there are a few things you might consider doing to get ahead of the game. I have attached a reading list (completely optional!) that you might make a selection from. There are also various resources available online... here are a few...

- Crash Course U.S. History (Available on Youtube)
- America: The Story of Us & The Men Who Built America (Available on Amazon and via the History Channel)
- JoczProductions APUSH Videos (available on Youtube)

The 2020-2021 school year will be my 9th year teaching (my 3rd year as a member of the Western Guilford family) and my 7th year teaching AP courses. It will be my fourth APUSH experience (I taught AP World at my old school before I took on APUSH). Here at Western, I also serve as the AP Capstone Academy Coordinator and one of the sponsors for Student Council. I would love to talk to you about either of these programs!

Outside of school, I enjoy traveling, baking, and loving my three cats (Lincoln Douglas, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Einstein).

Feel free to contact me via email at peelet@gcsnc.com if you have any questions! Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Ms. Taylor Peele

APUSH Reading List

Title	Author	Time Period
The Jungle	Upton Sinclair	Period 6
1776	David McCullough	Period 3
Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee	Dee Brown	Period 5
Uncle Tom's Cabin	Harriet Beecher Stowe	Period 5
Hamilton	Ron Chernow	Period 3
My Dear Hamilton	Stephanie Dray	Period 3
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	Period 7
Twelve Years A Slave	Solomon Northup	Period 5
Nothing Like It in the World	Stephen Ambrose	Period 5
A Raisin in the Sun	Lorraine Hansberry	Period 8
Grenade	Alan Gratz	Period 7
All Quiet on the Western Front	Erich Maria Remarque	Period 7
The Brooklyn Nine	Alan Gratz	Multiple
The True Flag	Stephen Kinzer	Period 6

Also, this website has a bunch of graphic novels (they have pictures kind of like comic strips) that might be cool...

<http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2015/03/19/history-comes-alive-in-graphic-novels/>