

Xavier College Preparatory High School

Advanced Placement United States History

2020 Summer Preparation

Welcome to AP US History (APUSH)! Our journey through the history of our nation will be a very challenging yet, hopefully, rewarding one. We will obviously focus on the events, people, and ideas that have shaped the U.S., but do so with an analytical eye towards perspectives, bias, and credibility of sources. As a college level class, you will be constantly challenged with complex readings, critical thinking activities, and intense focus on writing skills. You will have nightly reading assignments of approximately FIVE (5) pages (sometimes more), which will require focused and sustained attention – careful annotations and/or definitive notes are vital to real comprehension. Students are expected to come to class not only having read the material in advance, but also be prepared for quizzes, lectures, discussions, and/or writing prompts. In short, you must truly dedicate yourself to these tasks in order to be successful. This class is meant to be a college level course in terms of work, attitude and performance. More specifically this means:

1. Completing the nightly readings (it's a rather grueling schedule, at times); approach the study of history from factual and analytical perspectives (know extensive details about topics and be able to explain/critique themes they concern);
2. Review independently - unfortunately our time together flies by, so you will do most test/quiz review on your own; and, seek assistance if you struggle - I am happy to work with students individually (e.g., content review, reading/note-taking strategies, test tips, etc.), or form a study group... or both!!!

You will obviously need to do some preparation before school begins in August. The purposes of these summer assignments are to orient you to the workload and type of work you will have next year, to accelerate your study of the content (with so much information to cover, we need all the time we can get!), and to help you consider the analytical approach used in constructing history (evidence? reliability? interpretation?). You are therefore expected to complete the following tasks by the first day of school

TASK #1: Mandatory Read or Re-read, by the first day of school, any edition is fine (*You will be tested within the first week on both novels at the same time*) (2 chances at quiz; 1st week and 3rd week)

- **The Jungle** by Upton Sinclair
- **Uncle Tom's Cabin** by Harriet Beecher Stowe

TASK #2:

1. Know the 50 states, along with their capitals.
2. Know the location of the Mississippi River, Missouri River, Colorado River, Columbia River, Rio Grande, Ohio River, St. Lawrence River, Hudson River, Great Lakes, Great Salt Lake, Salton Sea, Yellowstone Lake, Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean, the Appalachian Mountains, Black Hills, Allegheny Mountains, Sierra Nevada Mountains, Cascade Range, Brooks Range, Alaska Range, Boston Mountains and the Rocky Mountains

NOTE: Students will be expected to label preselected states, their respective capitals, and the important geological features above, on a blank outline map. (2 chances at geography quiz: 1st week and the 4th week)

TASK #3: Presidents of the United States. You should have the entire list of Presidents AND their respective political parties memorized, in chronological order. **The first quiz will be given the day we return from Labor Day vacation.** (2 chances at quiz; TBA)

TASK #4: Watch or re-watch at least three (3) of the following movies AND SUMMARIZE three (each from a separate century) in a short typed MLA style narrative essay of your own, DO NOT Plagiarize, If you plagiarize this first written assignment, you will not be allowed to continue with this class (Documentaries are not included in this list and are not allowed as part of this assignment). **YOU MUST E-MAIL THIS ASSIGNMENT TO ME BEFORE 12:00 pm SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020**

These films constitute a range of ratings (PG to R), so please select carefully, and **MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE AWARE OF YOUR SELECTIONS.** The International Movie Database (imdb.com) might be helpful in making a selection. Most of these are available through standard outlets, so plan movie nights with friends! Yes, I understand there are movies not on this list that you would like to watch or have already watched, BUT, this is the list you have to use.

17th Century:

The Crucible (1996: PG-13) A Salem resident attempts to frame her ex-lover's wife for being a witch in the middle of the 1692 witchcraft trials.

The New World (2005 PG-13) The story of the English exploration of Virginia, and of the changing world and loves of Pocahontas.

18th Century:

The Crossing (2000: Age13+) A dramatization of George Washington's perilous gamble of crossing the Delaware River and attacking the British forces at Trenton.

Last of the Mohicans (1992: R) French & Indian War; second of many in the Daniel Day-Lewis series

Roots - Episode 1 (1977: Not Rated) A groundbreaking TV miniseries, it depicts generations of African slaves in early U.S. history.

19th Century:

12 Years a Slave (2013 R) In the antebellum United States, Solomon Northup, a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery.

Amistad (1997: R) 1839 slave ship uprising and trial; Sir Anthony Hopkins, Morgan Freeman, and Matthew McConaughey (very intense, be sure to get Parents' consent)

Birth of a Nation (1915: Not Rated) Heralded as a groundbreaking cinematic accomplishment, this infamous work romanticizes the Klan in post-Civil War south as guardians of white supremacy; Note: chock full of racist imagery (reflective of the era).

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee (2007: Not Rated) HBO's newest adaptation of D. Brown's classic book.

Dances with Wolves (1990 PG-13) Lt. John Dunbar, exiled to a remote western Civil War outpost, befriends wolves and Indians, making him an intolerable aberration in the military.

Far and Away (1992: PG-13) Immigration, Western settlement (Cruise & Kidman)

Gangs of New York (2002: R) Civil War era, but cities & immigrants perspective; you'll never react the same way again to the words "The Butcher"

Gettysburg (1993 PG) In 1863, the Northern and Southern forces fight at Gettysburg in the decisive battle of the American Civil War.

Glory (1989: R) stirring tribute to the 54th Mass. Regiment in Civil War: Mathew Broderick, Denzel Washington, and Morgan Freeman

Hester Street (1975: PG) It's 1896. Yankel Bogovnik, a Russian Jew, emigrated to the United States three years earlier and has settled where many of his background have, namely on Hester Street on the Lower East Side of New York

Lincoln (2012 PG-13) As the Civil War continues to rage, America's president struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield as he fights with many inside his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the slaves.

Little Big Man (1970: PG-13) A sensitive treatment of the Native American perspective during the Indian Wars; brutal recreation of the Sand Creek Massacre.

The Alamo (1960: Not Rated or 2004: PG-13) Based on the 1836 standoff between a group of Texan and Tejano men, led by Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, and Mexican dictator Santa Anna's forces at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas.

The Better Angels (2014 PG) The story of Abraham Lincoln's childhood in the harsh wilderness of Indiana and the hardships that shaped him, the tragedy that marked him forever and the two women who guided him to immortality.

The Conspirator (2010 PG-13) Mary Surratt is the lone female charged as a co-conspirator in the assassination trial of Abraham Lincoln. As the whole nation turns against her, she is forced to rely on her reluctant lawyer to uncover the truth and save her life.

The Molly Maguires (1970: PG) Life is rough in the coal mines of 1876 Pennsylvania. A secret group of Irish emigrant miners, fights against the cruelty of the mining company with sabotage. Sean Connery and Richard Harris.

The Searchers (1956: unrated) A Civil War veteran embarks on a journey to rescue his niece from an Indian tribe.

Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives (2003: Age 10+) A film about the stories of former slaves interviewed during the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers' Project and preserved in the WPA Slave Narrative Collection.

20th Century:

A League of Their Own (1992: PG-13) women's baseball leagues during WWII

All Quiet on the Western Front (1930: Not Rated) A WWI soldier experiences the horrors of trench warfare and experiences profound disillusionment as a result.

All the King's Men (2006: PG-13) Southern populist governor resembles "The Kingfish" Huey Long in tale of class struggle and dirty politics (Sir Anthony Hopkins, Sean Penn, Jude Law)

All the President's Men (1976 R) Reporters Woodward and Bernstein uncover the details of the Watergate scandal that leads to President Nixon's resignation.

Bobby (2008 R) The story of the assassination of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy who was shot in the early morning hours of June 5, 1968 in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, and 22 people in the hotel whose lives were never the same.

Charlie Wilson's War (2007 R) A drama based on a Texas congressman Charlie Wilson's covert dealings in Afghanistan, where his efforts to assist rebels in their war with the Soviets have some unforeseen and long-reaching effects.

Forrest Gump (1994: PG-13) Only Hollywood can make one person serve in Vietnam, attend Civil Rights rallies, meet Elvis, go to the White House, become a Ping-Pong diplomat, and witness the AIDS outbreak... but it's Tom Hanks!!!

Frost/Nixon (2008 R) A dramatic retelling of the post-Watergate television interviews between British talk-show host David Frost and former president Richard Nixon.

Good Night and Good Luck (2005: PG) Edward R. Murrow (journalist-hero) takes on Joe McCarthy in showdown of sensibility versus Red Scare hysteria personalities, and decision-making during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Help (2011 PG-13) an aspiring author during the civil rights movement of the 1960s decides to write a book detailing the African-American maids' point of view on the white families for which they work, and the hardships they go through on a daily basis.

Inherit the Wind (1960: PG) Scopes Monkey Trial of the 20's; Spencer Tracy v. Fredric March... a real throw down!

JFK (1991 R) A New Orleans DA discovers there's more to the Kennedy assassination than the official story.

Malcolm X (1992: PG-13) Spike Lee's powerful bio-drama (Denzel Washington is amazing)

Mississippi Burning (1989: R) FBI investigates cover up of murdered Civil Rights workers

Nixon (1995 R) A biographical story of former U.S. president Richard Milhous Nixon, from his days as a young boy to his eventual presidency which ended in shame.

October Sky (1999: PG) post Sputnik: boy meets rocketry

Patton (1970: PG) The stubborn, controversial, and acerbic General Patton fights the Nazis in North Africa until the surrender of the Third Reich

Parkland (2013 PG-13) A recounting of the chaotic events that occurred at Dallas' Parkland Hospital on the day U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Platoon (1986: R) Perhaps the most accurate depiction of the Vietnam War from the soldier's perspective, and a great soundtrack! (Very intense, be sure to get Parents' consent)

Red Tails (2012 PG-13) A crew of African American pilots in the Tuskegee training program, having faced segregation while kept mostly on the ground during World War II, are called into duty under the guidance of Col. A.J. Bullard.

Saving Private Ryan (1998 R) Following the Normandy Landings, a group of U.S. soldiers go behind enemy lines to retrieve a paratrooper whose brothers have been killed in action. (Very intense, be sure to get Parents' consent)

Selma (2014 PG-13) A chronicle of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

The Grapes of Wrath (1940: Not Rated) The Joads flee the Dust Bowl in search of work out west; the tale of hardship, heartache, and the American Dream

The Majestic (2001: PG) Hollywood Blacklisting post WW2/McCarthyism (Jim Carrey)

The Right Stuff (1983: PG) The story of the original Mercury 7 astronauts and their macho, seat-of-the-pants approach to the space program. 1950's Cold War & beginning of the space race

The Untouchables (1987: R) Kevin Costner as FBI Agent Elliott Ness as he assembles a top-flight team to take down mobster Al Capone

Thirteen Days (2000: PG-13) A dramatization of President Kennedy's administration's struggle to contain the Cuban Missile Crisis in October of 1962.

Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970: G) Pearl Harbor.... and vastly superior to "Pearl Harbor"

Tuskegee Airmen (1995: PG-13) The famed 332nd Fighter Group's tale of fighting intense prejudice in WWII while becoming the elite fighter escorts during the assaults on Italy.

21st Century:

World Trade Center (2006 PG-13) Two Port Authority police officers become trapped under the rubble of the World Trade Center.

United 93 (2006 PG-13) chronicles events aboard United Airlines Flight 93, which was hijacked during the September 11 attacks of 2001. The film attempts to recount with as much veracity as possible (there is a disclaimer that some imagination had to be used) and in real time (from the flight's takeoff) what has come to be known in the United States as a critical moment. According to the filmmakers, the film was made with the cooperation of all of the passengers' families.

Margin Call (2011 R) The story takes place over a 36-hour period at a large Wall Street investment bank and highlights the initial stages of the financial crisis of 2007–08. In focus are the actions taken by a group of employees during the subsequent financial collapse.

Too Big to Fail (2011 TV-MA) Chronicles the 2008 financial meltdown, focusing on the actions of U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson (William Hurt) to contain the problems during the period of August 2008 to October 13, 2008. Dick Fuld (James Woods), CEO of Lehman Brothers, is seeking external investment, but investors are wary as Lehman is seriously exposed to toxic housing assets and the Treasury is ideologically opposed to offering any sort of bailout as it did for Bear Stearns.

The Fifth Estate (2013 R) A dramatic thriller based on real events that reveals the quest to expose the deceptions and corruptions of power that turned an Internet upstart into the 21st century's most fiercely debated organization.