

# ***AP US History Grade 9 Summer Work 2014***

## ***For the Class of 2018!***

June 1, 2014

Dear Member of the **Class of 2018**,

Welcome to **AEHS and MCPS pre-IB/AP US History for freshmen!** In **pre-IB Advanced Placement United States History** you will study America's story from pre-Columbian times to the present, and you will do so in depth. One major distinction between this course and other 9<sup>th</sup> grade US History courses (either honors or on-grade) is the amount of time and depth addressed. Regular classes begin their study of US History with the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. We will begin with a study of North America when it was a continent of villages prior to C.E.1500 and we will conclude with the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. That means we will study about 500 years of history as opposed to just over a century. But the most significant distinction between our course and the others is that we will do more depth. In addition to this comprehensive amount of material, we will work on critical reading, writing, and research skills. **Time management will become your best friend; lack of success in that area will create undue stress in your life.** This may prove to be one of the most challenging courses you have ever taken. But with hard work comes satisfying results. If you commit to do your best, you should not be dissatisfied with the outcome. Be prepared to grow academically this year in AP US History.

*Taking the AP US History class as a freshman was a stressful experience for me, mainly due to the fact that I couldn't manage my time well enough to read the assigned chapters. Yet even though I was behind and Mrs. Carballo seemed to be racing through the decades, I learned so much about managing my time (through horribly mismanaging it in the beginning) and gained so much needed experience in taking AP tests that it was worth the struggle.*

**Hannah O'Toole '08**

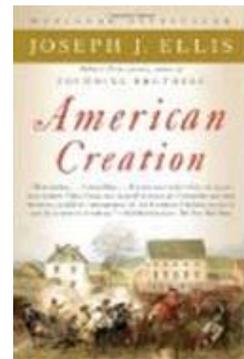
*I'm not gonna' lie. This class was freaking hard. The reading took up a lot of weekends, working on writing wasn't easy, and the projects took a lot of effort. However, it truly is rewarding to take this class even if you don't get as good a grade as you normally get. I was a generally A student, and I really had to struggle to get a B in this class. But I learned a lot more in this class than any other class I have taken, and so there is no doubt in my mind that it was worth all of the effort and hard work.*

**Alex Bodaken, class of '08**

### **Your Summer Assignment**

You must read *The American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies in the Founding of the Republic* by Joseph Ellis. (ISBN-10: 0307276457 or ISBN-13: 978-0307276452-) This book is a collection of stories about the beginnings of American democracy and will serve as a supplement to our textbook's coverage of the era from the War of Independence through the Louisiana Purchase. Take notes on each chapter of this book using your most effective method of note-taking. In your note-taking focus on:

- The complexities of the founding fathers
- The issues of politics and power
- How the issues in the book continue to be part of the American story



**Be prepared for your first quizzes on this reading during the first week of school.** These assessments will count toward your first quarter grade. If you read the book early in the summer make sure you review your notes at the end of the summer. **This book is approximately 300 pages long, so plan your time so that you will finish the reading before the first day of school.**

In addition to the assigned reading, I encourage you to do a lot of reading for pleasure this summer. Strong reading and writing skills are essential components for success in this class. The most successful students in this class have been those who have a love of reading. Strong readers make strong writers. As you read this summer, pay attention to the author's voice and tone. Make note of the variety of sentence structures. Notice the vocabulary used. You must not only comprehend what the author is **saying**, but what the author is **doing** through the careful selection of adjectives and verbs. To be successful in this course you must be able to apply your strong, focused reading skills to the challenge of reading a chapter a week in a college-level textbook. Furthermore, you must be able to demonstrate your knowledge of the reading by communicating that information in your own thoughtfully selected words. We will work on close reading skills and analytical writing throughout the year.

### **Course Expectations**

Strong time management skills are necessary for success in this class. You will learn to follow a college-style syllabus in order to keep up with the reading. There are 31 chapters in our textbook, and you are required to read all of them. One chapter is due each Monday. In addition to the textbook reading, there are primary source to read each week as well, due on Wednesday. So, you need to come up with a reading schedule for yourself. How will you get the reading done each week? Think about your schedule. You must allow time for this course the same way you schedule time for your other activities. My most successful students tend to be those who are involved in sports, music, theater and other activities and know how to set and follow a schedule. Procrastinators don't do well in this class. There is study hall each day in my classroom during lunch time. Plan to spend some time there each week, eating your lunch and working on AP US History. This course is difficult, but I will show you how to maneuver your way through the difficulty. You must come to this class with the motivation to do so.

**Read the comments from former students below and think about the recurring themes in their comments as you read. Try summarizing their comments after you have read all of them.**

### **More student perspectives over the years:**

Even though this class is extremely time consuming and difficult, it was the best thing I did my freshman year and I will always remember the things I learned. The fact that it is a college class intimidated me, but I feel very prepared and all other classes seem easy by comparison.

**Anna Lukacs '08**

The most important thing to remember about this course is that you **have** to keep up with the reading. If you keep up in class and with your homework, you'll be amazed at how much you can improve your writing, time management, and reading skills over one year. This class is worth it!!

**Anna McGrady '09**



AP US History was probably the best and worst class that I took. It was the best in that I learned how to write good essays, how to take notes, and just about every other skill I'm going to need in high school. It was the worst in that to learn all of that it took a lot of time and work.

**Alex Comas, '09**

I was anxious and scared when I read this letter the summer before high school and must admit this was the most challenging class of my freshman year. But stick with it because Mrs. Carballo's writing instruction really helps with other classes and you'll start to like history.

**Love, Katie Dunn '10**

This was by far the hardest and most time consuming class of my freshman year; yet my writing as also developed more than I could ever hope. Mrs. Carballo also introduced me to time management which I will use throughout my life.

**Glenn Pastel '10**

This class will at first be very threatening and you won't think you will be able to get good grades, but as the year goes on, it will become easier. Mrs. Carballo is a really good teacher who actually knows what she is talking about. Actually doing all the readings and writings will make the AP exam so much easier. AND ACTUALLY READ! I am the world's biggest procrastinator and I put off reading until Sunday nights at 10 and I wouldn't go to bed until 3 a.m. It sucked. So read most of the time and pay attention in class and you will be surprised at how much you love this class.

**Caroline Jackman '10**

This course does demand a lot of effort. I advise you to get a group of classmates and review before the quizzes. Good luck! You will do just fine. Read, review and take the AP exam. If you pay attention you will do well. Trust me.

**Marcus Townsend '13**

This class is super difficult, but if you stay organized and manage your time wisely, and give it your all I promise it will pay off. I didn't think I could get through this class but I did! You'll feel so proud in the end. This class is worth all the hard work. You **CAN** do it!

**Casey Lamkin '14**

This class was mind-blowing and definitely worthwhile. It sets you up for life with all the reading, writing and life skills Mrs. Carballo teaches you.

**Alejandro Hernandez '14**

This class is like a punch in the face. Lots of work, lots of reading and high expectations, but I am so glad I took it!

**Margaret Plumart '14**

Just remember: Abundant, Accurate Specifics.

**Malaika Temba '14**



This class had too much work, took too much of my time, and tested me brutally...and I enjoyed every minute of it.

**Declan Enright '14**

I took this class as a junior. As an upperclassman this isn't your most difficult class. You have demands from classes, an anxiety about college and well, you have a life. None of these are really things freshmen typically have more than upperclassmen. That's why this class is so imperative. It's made for freshmen when you can still learn to deal with challenging work. Take it seriously.

**Sonja Plungis '14**

Taking this class may seem impossible at first, but if you hang in there it's worth it at the end! If you **don't** like history though, I don't recommend it.

**Alexa Caffio-Learner, '15**

This class was a difficult transition, and had a demanding schedule, but it is worth taking. Keeping up with reading is important, yet difficult. Overall I gained academic skills that helped me with other classes as well.

**Leena Chawla, '15**

*"The pain is temporary, but the success lasts forever."*

**Khanh Nguyen, '15**

Don't stress! This class takes up a lot of time, but it is so worth it. Stay calm, do your work and you'll do great!

**Avery Harwood, '15**

This class is very challenging at first, but once you get used to it, you'll be glad you took it, since it completely prepares you for future AP classes.

**Eloise Lindblom, '15**

AP US History will push you to the limits and consume a lot of your time regardless of your work ethic. However, it's a game in time management and if you pay attention in class, take notes, study and do the reading you will be surprised at what you can accomplish.

**Halcyon Ruskin '15**

You will cry and you will get stressed, but in the end it is SO worth it!

**Olivia Hagmann, '15**

Don't treat this class like a class you had in middle school. This class will challenge you and you may not like what you see on your first quarter report card, but I promise you you'll learn more in this class than all of your others combined.

**Carlos Castillo '15**

Don't wait until the last minute to read-you will hate Monday mornings.

**Pauline McMurray '15**



This is a great class. I know everyone says it is really hard, but it definitely helps you to become a better student. I learned so much in AP US History and I found that it has helped me organize and write in a more sophisticated way. This class is a great opportunity, so if you think you are prepared, then you should take it.

**Jillian McGuffey, '15**

Although this class is extremely difficult, it is extremely gratifying. You will never regret taking this class if you work hard, study, and NEVER procrastinate.

**Abigail Toretsky '15**

You have to find what strategies work for you, and make sure you really do all the work given.

**Jenna Pastel, '15**

This class is one of the most difficult classes you'll be in your freshmen year but it is 100% worth it. If you enter this class with a great mentality and believe in yourself, you can do it. Study for this class, you will see a noticeable change when you study hard vs. not studying.

**Alyssa Adams '15**

Coming from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, AP US History is definitely a challenge. If you are not a hard worker do not waste your time because you will end up switching to an Honors Class.

**Zahra Mousavi '16**

I came to this class thinking I could breeze through it; I was wrong. This class will make you work hard but that's exactly what I needed.

**Hannah Sheinkman '16**

This class will not only teach you history, but the proper skills you need in order to be a productive writer, speaker and a critical thinker. When you get stressed, don't give up. Keep looking forward and continue to work and study productively. Before you know it, freshmen year will be complete and you will be glad you took the opportunity to try something harder and challenging. It's all worth it.

**Victoria Serrano '16**

If you are not prepared to work, don't even bother taking this class. This will be your toughest class, and you will have to give 100% of your effort.

**Lucas Intrater '16**

The path to the end of this class was very rocky, but I promise you will be better prepared for high school after you take this class. Do not give up, stay strong, and I promise high school will be a breeze!

**Mamadou Coulibay '16**

If you actually do the work, seeing the improvement over the course of the year is the most satisfying feeling in the world.

**Lily Habenstreit '16**



This class is somewhat of a legend due to its level of difficulty, and there were kids who decided to drop the class. However, if you are committed to doing well and devoting a fair amount of time to reading the textbook and studying, there's no reason why you can't succeed! When you do, you not only feel good about yourself, you gain experience and skills that will help you the rest of your academic life.

**Elizabeth Lambert '16**

Remember that AP is run like a college class. You have probably never taken anything as demanding as an AP class, so you will have to experiment to figure out what works for you. Be prepared for frustration, but don't drop out, because at the end of the year you will be so glad that you stuck with it. Best of luck!

**Abby Dennis '16**

Three simple rules for this class: 1) Do all of the reading, ALWAYS 2) study 3) Don't even THINK about falling asleep in class!

**Olivia Simons '16**

This class is challenging, so the weak of heart, dedication, perseverance and writing prowess should turn back now. It's not a class you can just blow through easily, but it does prepare you for more difficult classes and work. This is a monster you have to face, and you'll be all the better when you succeed.

**Aidan Bradley '16**

What is most important when taking this class is developing your own strategy. You need to find a system that works for you and stick to it.

**Sean McSkeane '16**

Brace for impact, because this is probably the hardest class you will take. But it's doable, hang in there the first two months, because those are definitely the hardest. It is possible to succeed, but it will take work and commitment. This course is NOT for procrastinators.

**Marcus Hibbeln '16**

Listen to everything Mrs. Carballo says, even if you think it's not important. You will be great!

**Eileen Soeu '17**

Coming to this class I honestly didn't think it would be so demanding, but this class does require hard work and tests your time management. If it's difficult at first don't drop out because overall this class has improved my writing and prepared me for high school. Never slack and pay attention from the beginning! Good luck!

**Raquel Delgadillo '17**



While at first I thought the warnings and advice of AP US History students was a bit dramatic, but I quickly learned how right they were. Time management and responsibility is extremely important and no student will be successful without those skills.

**Pedraam Faridjoo '17**

In AP US History time management is so important to help you achieve your goal in class. In the beginning it's hard but you learn so much and you can apply this to your other subjects.

**Jessica Pierce '17**

Reading all of these comments you probably feel intimidated by this class, but if you do all of your work and pay attention then you should be fine. Relax, Mrs. Carballo doesn't bite.

**Mary Rosenbaum '17**

This class will be challenging and stressful until the last second, but when you're done you have the satisfaction you get from running a marathon. It will make you stronger, smarter and outrageously more prepared. Trudge through and you will be glad you did.

**Lucy Pasenelli '17**

This class is DEFINITELY the hardest thing at AEHS, but it's also the thing that will be the most worthwhile. If you study hard, listen to Mrs. Carballo, and are dedicated and focused, then you can and WILL succeed. Seeing your improvement over the course of the year is the best thing ever and you will feel so satisfied by the end of the year. I promise!

**Julia Park '17**

Don't walk in this class thinking it will be an easy A. You will struggle at first until you learn to do independent reading and remembering. Studying is important along with time management. Mrs. Carballo sets the bar high so you can get a 5 on the AP exam.

**Andrea Mulato '17**

This was the most difficult class I have ever taken! The reading took up countless weekends and it takes a lot of effort to get an A. However, with the help of Mrs. Carballo and a lot of hard work, you'll be glad you took it in the end.

**Aiden Hall '17**

Though this class is not for the faint-hearted, it is not impossible! It prepares you exceptionally well for classes in the future, and always gives you and your friends something to talk about!

**Elise Van Leer '17**

**This class will be so beneficial and improve your writing, reading and study skills in all of your classes. It will be hard but will be worth it. Good luck!**

**Zoe Ades '17**

Although this class is difficult and quite time consuming, it is totally worth it. You'll learn so many skills and Mrs. Carballo will prepare you well. Remember, do the readings and never give up!

**Philippos Sourvinos '17**

