First Weeks' Assignments 2026-2027
AP US History



Dear APUSH Student,

Welcome to 11th grade and AP US History. Unfortunately, the folks at CollegeBoard do not like to provide different testing dates for their exams, and thus, to my best guess, the AP exam is scheduled for May 7, 2027. For most states that start in August, this is ideal because they go on summer break after AP exams in late May. For Oregon, though, we start in September and go into June… See what I'm saying? We're already behind before the school year even starts… But this is fine! Totally fine…

To hit the ground running, I highly recommend completing the following tasks ***before*** the first day of school, September 2, 2026. Our first exam, which is ungraded, will take place on September 10 or September 11 (depending on finalized schedules).

So I received this information during the summer or at registration in August? Am I behind?!
Technically, you're not behind, and you have time to prepare before the first day of class. But if you have any questions, please feel free to email me! Speaking of which…

Summer Communication
The best way to reach me during the summer and school year is by email (kc.perley@corvallis.k12.or.us). I will try to get back to you as soon as possible. If your message is important or urgent, please put that in the subject line of your email, or kindly send a follow-up response after a couple of days.

Complete the following tasks:

1. **Required Reading and Notes (Chapter Note Instructions - Assignment instructions below)**

    - **OpenStax's *US History* Chapters 1-4 (About 90ish pages)**
        i. The Americas, Europe, and Africa Before 1492
        ii. Early Globalization: The Atlantic World, 1492-1660
        iii. Creating New Social Orders: Colonial Societies, 1500-1700
        iv. Rule Britannia! The English Empire, 1660-1763
        ***I have limited print copies available to loan to students.**

    - **Chapters 1-4 Key IDs**
        i. The Americas, Europe, and Africa Before 1492
        ii. Early Globalization: The Atlantic World, 1492-1660
        iii. Creating New Social Orders: Colonial Societies, 1500-1700
        iv. Rule Britannia! The English Empire, 1660-1763

        The Key IDs are a resource of collected, specific historical information that is directly or indirectly mentioned in the chapter reading. The Key IDs are an additional reading that should be completed in conjunction with OpenStax.

2. **OpenStax Chapter Reading Notes**
    - Look over the instructions for Chapter Notes, linked here.
    - **Assignment:** Take a minimum of **three (3) pages of notes for the test, combined over the four chapters** (HANDWRITTEN ONLY). Chapter notes are ***always*** due on exam days.

Keep scrolling…

3. **Heimler's History - Units 1 and 2 Video Study Guides**
    a. Complete the following Study Guides for Units 1 and 2 of Heimler's History.
        i. Unit 1 Study Guide - Unit 1 Playlist
        ii. Unit 2 Study Guide - Unit 2 Playlist

Heimler's History material will be on the Chs. 1-4 exam, either as multiple-choice questions or short-answer questions.

Unless otherwise stated, all FUTURE exams (after Chs. 1-4) exam content will only come from content covered in OpenStax and the Key IDs.

4. **Ungraded Chs. 1-4 Exam** - Second week of school
    - There are two parts to the first exam:
        i. Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs): 20 questions in 15 minutes
        ii. One of the six Short Answer Questions (SAQs) listed here => 15 minutes

    To prepare for the Short Answer Questions, please see the following resources:
    - SAQ Advice/Guidance

Other things to review over the summer and during the first weeks of September:

- **How to Write Slides - I RECOMMEND BOOKMARKING THIS SLIDE DECK FOR QUICK ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

- Bookmark the following links for quick/efficient access:
    - OpenStax Textbook and Key IDs
    - Perley's APUSH Web Page (will be updated during the summer)
    - How to Write Slides

- ***Brief* Course Overview and Advice from Former Students**
    - Course Syllabus (last updated May 2026)
    - Advice From Former Students

Optional Summer Reading:
Mr. Perley is an avid reader; he tries to read over fifty books a year. Reading is extremely important, and it's a skill that will be strengthened next year in APUSH. If you would like to further your summer preparation for AP US History, I recommend the following books. PLEASE DO NOT BUY BOOKS FROM AMAZON…Go to the Book Bin, Grass Roots, or order from Powells. If you like audiobooks, don't use Audible. I recommend Libro.fm. **Also, the Corvallis Public Library is pretty awesome, and y'all should support your local libraries.**

- *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States* by Daniel Immerwahr
- *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
- *The Wordy Shipmates* by Sarah Vowell
- *White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America* by Nancy Isenberg
- *A Peoples' History of the United States* by Howard Zinn
- *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith
- *These Truths* by Jill Lepore
- *Stamped From the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi
    - Or, *STAMPED* by Kendi and Jason Reynolds
- *Strangers From a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans* by Ronald Takaki
- *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America* by Ronald Takaki
- *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James Loewen