

Summer 2020 GHHS APUSH Reading Recommendations

Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH) covers American History from 1491 to the present. As we end an unprecedented Spring and prepare for an unknown Fall, APUSH will not have a required summer assignment this year. Because this course is so challenging, we strongly recommend all students read and complete the following as they are able. Please note nothing that what follows is required nor will be assessed for a grade, but will instead prepare you for success in our class by building an evaluative framework and beginning to engage in the themes of this course.

We encourage each student to complete one article the entire class will read and one book of their own choosing, preferably from the selections below.

The Strange Death of Silas Deane: Read [this article](#) and consider the following questions

- The authors believe the view “history is what happened in the past” is, in their words, a “profoundly misleading” view of history. Do you agree with their view? How do the authors define history?
- What in your opinion does the case of “The Strange Death of Silas Deane” demonstrate regarding the techniques of historical research?
- The authors assert “like all good couriers, historians are expected simply to deliver messages without adding to them.” Do you believe this should be the goal of history? Do you believe, based on what the authors have revealed about how history is created that this is even possible?

History book selection: During the semester we plan to read from Rice University’s Openstax textbook. Select one of the following options to read this summer. We will make time available to discuss your thoughts at the beginning of the semester either individually with your teacher or in groups with the class.

During and after reading, consider the following questions

- What are the central messages of this book?
- What did you learn that you didn’t know before?
- How are the lessons of this book relevant to your life today and/or the broader world today?
- Based on everything you have read and upon which you have reflected this summer, what do you predict this class will be like and how might it be similar to and/or different from history classes you have taken in the past?

Please select from one of the book recommendations below:

Narratives exploring one time period

-[A Voyage Long and Strange: Rediscovering the New World](#) by Tony Horwitz (early colonization)

-Be Free or Die: The Amazing Story of Robert Smalls' Escape from Slavery to Union Hero by Kate Lineberry (Civil War/Reconstruction)

-The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Erik Larson (Gilded Age)

US History surveys from competing perspectives (these cover from founding to today)

-An Indigenous People's History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

-Stamped by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X Kendi (history of racism)

-The Making of Asian America: A History by Erika Lee

There are a lot of great books that are substantively longer and more challenging than those above which we will reference and contextualize in class. If you are looking for a challenge, here are some of the best books on American History we've ever read

-The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson

-The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York by Robert Caro

Finally, while we will offer other recommendations based on course content throughout the semester we share together, if you would like a personalized recommendation on a topic not found here, please reach out to Mr. Richardson or Mr. Hutchison to discuss and we might help you pick something from, for instance, this [list of award-winning books](#).

We look forward to meeting and talking with you soon! Happy reading!