

AP US History 1 – 2019-2020  
Ms. Olszyk

Welcome to AP U.S. History 1! For many of you, this will be your first experience with an AP course. You have probably heard from teachers and your guidance counselor already, but let me stress the point again: AP classes require **work ethic, organizational skills, the desire to question, and commitment**. These summer assignments are meant to prepare you for the first day of class (and beyond), as well as inform you of the expectations I have for you. Though this class will certainly be challenging, I also hope that it will be informative and fun!

**Logistics and details**

1. **AP Summer Institute:** I strongly recommend that all new AP students enroll in the AP Summer Institute held this summer at Central High School. Please see the [attached letter](#) that provides details about the summer program.
2. **AP US History 1 Course Syllabus:** Please closely read through the [AP US1 Course Syllabus](#). Knowing the expectations of the course will help guide you through the summer assignment as well as the year we are going to spend together.
3. **Washington, DC Trip:** Please read over the Washington, DC Field Trip opportunity for March of 2020. The deadline for the submission of field trip money and permissions is Monday, October 1, 2019. This trip is limited to 50 students and reservations are processed as first come, first reserved. You can submit payment and permissions as early as the first day of the AP Summer Institute (June 25th). You must complete the [Permission Slip](#) form and [Emergency Medical](#) form and submit both along with payment to secure your spot on the trip.
4. **Course Materials:** You will be responsible for keeping all of your AP US1 materials, including your concepts and class notes, throughout the course of the year in preparation for AP US2. These materials are *essential* for review exams in mid-April and for the **AP test in May of 2021**. The AP US History program is a two-year course; thus, AP US1 students will not take the AP US exam until the end of their junior year in high school. I recommend that you purchase a 2 inch binder, binder folders, and a five-subject, heavy duty, spiral notebook.
5. **Summer Assignment:** Your summer assignment packet will be due in **OnCourse Classroom** on the first day of school. You may email me anytime over the summer at [jolszyk@hvrds.org](mailto:jolszyk@hvrds.org) with any questions or concerns you may have.

**Summer Assignment Due Date:**

September 5th 2019

**Point Value:**

25 points (Critical Reading)

**Assignment Overview:**

As you read the book, *A Most Amazing Scene of Wonders: Electricity and Enlightenment in Early America*, answer the study guide questions that will be sent to you via HVRSD email on June 20th. Your answers must be written using complete sentences. Typical response length per question is approximately 2-4 sentences. The study guide is due on the first day of school in OnCourse Classroom and will be graded for completion only. We will spend the first week of school unpacking the major ideas of the assigned text. You will take an assessment during the second week of school that is based on the major ideas and enduring understandings central to the text and the summer study guide will be useful in your preparation for the assessment.

**Required Reading Purchase:**

Delbourgo, James. *A Most Amazing Scene of Wonders: Electricity and Enlightenment in Early America*. Cambridge Massachusetts, Harvard University Press: 2006, 367 pp.

Buy this book NOW. You can purchase it from any major book distributor including Amazon.

**Text Background:**

Benjamin Franklin's invention of the lightning rod is the founding fable of American science, but Franklin was only one of many early Americans fascinated by electricity. As a dramatically new physical experience, electricity amazed those who dared to tame the lightning and set it coursing through their own bodies. Thanks to its technological and medical utility, but also its surprising ability to defy rational experimental mastery, electricity was a powerful experience of enlightenment, at once social, intellectual, and spiritual. In this compelling book, James Delbourgo moves beyond Franklin to trace the path of electricity through early American culture, exploring how the relationship between human, natural, and divine powers was understood in the eighteenth century. By examining the lives and visions of natural philosophers, spectacular showmen, religious preachers, and medical therapists, he shows how electrical experiences of wonder, terror, and awe were connected to a broad array of cultural concerns that defined the American Enlightenment. The history of lightning rods, electrical demonstrations, electric eels, and medical electricity reveals how early American science, medicine, and technology were shaped by a culture of commercial performance, evangelical religion, and republican politics from mid-century to the early republic. The first book to situate early American experimental science in the context of a transatlantic public sphere, *A Most Amazing Scene of Wonders* offers a captivating view of the origins of American science and the cultural meaning of the American Enlightenment. In a story of shocks and sparks from New England to the Caribbean, Delbourgo brilliantly illuminates a revolutionary New World of wonder.

