

Mr. Parkinson
Summer Assignment

AP US History II – 2019-20

Welcome to AP U.S. History II! 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

- All materials for the class (including this sheet) can be accessed via the “AP US II Students” folder in Google Drive, which I will share with you. This folder will be the primary location for course materials throughout the year.
- All work will be submitted via OnCourse Classroom. I will send an email sometime in August once OnCourse is setup for the new school year reminding you to do this.
 - All summer work will be due on the **second day of class** to make sure that I can answer any questions you may have prior to you submitting your work.
- Please closely read through the [AP US II 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.
- Organize all **AP US I** materials, including your concepts and class notes. These materials are *essential* for review exams in mid-April and for the AP test in May.
- I recommend that you purchase a single-subject notebook, probably 2in. and **heavy duty**.
- You may email me anytime over the summer at jeffreyparkinson@hvrsd.org with any questions or concerns you may have.

See next page for summer assignments

Part I: Thinking

Before we can begin to delve into the historical aspects of the course, I'd like for us to think a little bit about...thinking. In this course, as in all AP courses, students are asked to reason at a high level - to engage with multiple pieces of sometimes dissenting or disparate information, and synthesize that information into a cohesive (or at least comprehensible) whole. This is not an easy task, and has in some ways been made harder in the last few decades by the incredible amount of information that is available at our fingertips.

I can think of no more important task ahead of us - in this course and in life - than the one laid out by Alan Jacobs in *How To Think*. A short, approachable book that is still challenging at times, *How To Think* asks the reader to consider the ways in which we approach the act of thinking, something which we very rarely do. The process of thinking about how we actually go about thinking, according to Jacobs, forces us to consider who we are as learners, members of society, and human beings. Hopefully, if we all spend a little time reflecting on these processes, the ways in which we interact with each other can benefit.

You will be responsible for the following with this assignment:

- Get a copy of Alan Jacobs, *How To Think*
 - Available for purchase at most bookstores, or on [Amazon](#) for about \$15. (RECOMMENDED)
 - Our Media Center library has a few copies which you can check out prior to summer. (note: Since the Media Center is currently under construction, I have the copies of the books)
 - Complete the corresponding critical thinking assignment as you read the book. Be sure to read the assignment carefully.
 - Assignment can be found by following [this link](#), or in the “Summer Assignment” Google Drive folder.
 - Also, note that Jacobs uses footnotes often. **Read them**. They can be helpful in understanding his arguments in a more complete way.
-

Part II: History

The Progressive Era

In order to get through the AP US curriculum by the end of March, the pace of our course is necessarily accelerated as compared to US II and US II honors. To get a running start you will be responsible for the following summer reading:

- Read Chapters 28 and 29 in *American Pageant*, your textbook.
 - In the “Summer Assignment” folder in Google Drive (access through the course website) there are PDFs of the chapters. If you would like a physical textbook, please see me before summer begins.
 - Complete the chapter study guides for each of the two chapters, being careful to follow the instructions on that assignment.
 - We will start with a brief review of these chapters the first week of school, and will then have a comprehensive multiple choice test within the first full week of school. **Completing these study guides will be essential to success on this test.**
-

Analytical Reading

- Print out, read, and **annotate** [Eugene E. Leach, “Chapter One: 1900-1914,” from *A Companion to 20th Century America*](#).
 - Create a chart which compares and contrasts the major historical interpretations on the progressive era and the progressive movement over time.
 - The format of the chart is up to you. Careful thought and consideration should be given to the different categories of analysis presented by Leach in the article, as well as the different interpretations set forth by historians.
 - Historical Thinking Skill = **Comparison**
-