

United States History II Honors
Summer Assignment
2018-2019

Instructor: Mr. Michael N. Gehm
Contact Information: mgehm@sboe.org

In preparation for your upcoming US History II Honors, you will be required to complete the following assignment.

Students and Parents please read the following information carefully:

DO YOUR OWN WORK. It is essential that you do not copy this assignment from someone else. **IF TWO OR MORE STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS HAVE IDENTICAL MATCHING ANSWERS, THESE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED COPIED/CHEATING (even if you are the student that did the work and allowed someone to copy it). NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR COPIED/CHEATING WORK. PARENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY.**

This class is largely about reading, so if you are tempted to not read and get the information from someone else, I suggest that you do not take the class. This class is designed for the student who will take the time to read and complete the material. Class time will be used to discuss ideas and concepts that are in the readings and assignments. You need to be prepared to discuss in class by taking the time at home to read and complete assignments.

No credit will be given to assignment turned in past the due date.

I do not give extra credit on an individual basis and do not allow for retakes on quizzes and exams.

Plagiarism as defined by Marriam-Webster means “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own: use (another’s production) without crediting the sources.”

If you copy from anyone, anywhere and do not cite the information you will get a zero on the assignment whether you knew it was plagiarizing or not. Ignorance is not an excuse. It is your responsibility to make sure that any idea you get from the internet, a book, or another author is cited. If you copied from anyone, anywhere without citing the information you will get a zero on the assignment whether you knew it was plagiarizing or not.

ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Assignment #1: You need to get a copy of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, the completely revised and updated version, by James W. Loewen. This book can be purchased in paperback in most major bookstores and online bookstores (prices starting at \$5.76) or checked out at the public library.

Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007.

This book was written several years ago, and has been a very popular read with teachers and students alike. Loewen examines why high school US history courses and textbooks often leave out ‘certain’ information... information that would be seen as controversial by many Americans, regardless that it is truth.

Your assignment is as follows:

The following chapters are mandatory that you read:

- Introduction (pages 1-9)
- Chapter 12-13 (pages 301-354)

Then you must choose five additional chapters to read:

- Chapter 1: Handicapped By History
- Chapter 2: 1493: The True Importance of Christopher Columbus
- Chapter 3: The Truth About the First Thanksgiving
- Chapter 4: Red Eyes
- Chapter 5: “Gone With the Wind”: The Invisibility of Racism in American History

Textbooks

- Chapter 6: John Brown and Abraham Lincoln: The Invisibility of Antiracism in American History Textbooks
- Chapter 7: The Land of Opportunity
- Chapter 8: Watching Big Brother: What Textbooks Teach About the Federal Government
- Chapter 9: See No Evil: Choosing Not to Look at the War in Vietnam

Paper Assignment:

Margins: 1”

Font: Times New Roman, Size 12

Double-spaced

Stable all pages together. (DO NOT SEND THIS ELECTRONICALLY)

Part 1: After you have read the above, you are to answer the following questions in a paper format: (1 ½ pages)

According to Loewen, how is United States History often taught?

Why is history taught like this?

What are the pros and cons of United States History being taught selectively?

Why is the book entitled *Lies My Teacher Told Me*?

What is Loewen’s purpose for writing this book?

Part 2: For each individual chapter that you select to read, answer the following questions: (1 page each, total 5 pages)

What are the main points of the chapter?

What are five facts that have become new knowledge to you after reading this chapter?

Is this information surprising or alarming to you? Why/why not?

Part 3. Lastly, you are to write about your personal philosophy as to how United States History should be taught: (1 page)

Do you believe Loewen makes valid points, or do you disagree with him?

What is your personal opinion as to why US history is often taught on a biased level?