

AP United States History

Course Information and Summer Assignment

Course Information

AP U.S. History is a yearlong course designed to replace an introductory college-level course in American History. Students in the course need solid writing, reading, and critical thinking skills, and students should expect to devote considerable time to the course reading and writing assignments. AP U.S. History is a fast-moving, stimulating course that covers a lot of material in a short time. It is a course designed for those with a genuine interest in history and in America.

The course is structured like a college course; the grading is based primarily on in-class performance, rather than out of class homework assignments. As such, students will need to keep up with the reading for the course on their own in order to perform well on in-class tests, quizzes, writing assignments, and group work. It will not be possible to succeed in the course without extensive commitment to outside work.

All students who enter AP U.S. History will be required to remain in AP U.S. History. Soquel's Counseling office will permit NO movement from AP U.S. History to regular U.S. History next fall. As such, all students who enter the course must be dedicated to doing the work in the course and understand the implications for their grades if they do not. **If at this point you elect NOT to enter the course, you must tell the Counseling Office BEFORE JUNE 5**, so that a counselor may remove you from the course and enable a wait-listed student to take your place.

Summer Reading and Writing Assignment

1. Please read any unabridged version of **BOTH** the following books and write an essay responding to the prompt below.

Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harriet Beecher Stowe)

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (Frederick Douglass)

2. Both Stowe and Douglass wrote their respective texts to convince readers that America should abolish slavery. Write an essay in which you determine which text is more effective in its argument to abolish slavery. Support your assertion by explicitly comparing and citing from **both** books.

Format for essay:

650-900 words

Double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt font

1" margins (adjust margins slightly if necessary to avoid single sentences on final page)

MLA header format: Student ID #, teacher name, course name, and date in upper left corner

MLA subsequent pages format: Student ID # and page number in upper right corner

The essay **AND** the Academic Integrity Contract are due on the first day of school. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**