

Date: Summer 2021  
From: Nelson  
To: Incoming US History students 2020-2021  
RE: Summer Assignment -- US History

Welcome,

The course is designed to prepare and provide students with an intellectual challenge and consistent with an introduction to US History. The goal of this class is not to memorize dates and facts (though you should know key turning points), but instead, the goal is to make connections throughout history.

Things that would be good for you to do (but certainly not an assignment)

1. Read. Try to read at least two or three books over the course of the summer. You will be doing lots of reading in this class next year and if you are not in the habit of turning pages, it will be much more difficult to adjust. Read fiction if you like, but make it historical fiction.
2. Become an informed citizen. Read the newspaper. Watch BBC. Listen to NPR. Pick up a copy of The Economist. Try to keep up to date on world events. Being knowledgeable about current events will help you make connections throughout our units of study.
3. Learn your geography. Geography is going to play an important part of this course. The more you know about geography the farther ahead you will be. I am not just talking about US geography, though knowing your states and major geographical markers is important; we are a global society. Get a globe – look up places that you hear about in the news.
4. Watch history movies! If you have a free evening, watch something historical. See if you can spot historical inaccuracies or bias in the film.

**Summer Assignment: Due on the 1st day of school.**

**We will have a Canvas page for the school year where you will turn it in. Create a Google Folder in the meantime to store and organize your work.**

Because our course has a lot to cover, you are going to want to manage your time to get your assignments in on deadline throughout the year. The assignments below are due the first day of class. You will create a Google Folder and put your work into your folder, you will submit it into our class Canvas in September.

1. Crash Course Videos on US History – Episodes 1- 3 (bookmark the entire US History playlist)

Watch each of the episodes listed below. I will not collect notes, but you need to have some method other than depending on your innate brilliance to remember the details.

- a. The Black Legend
- b. When is Thanksgiving
- c. The Native and the English

2. Read or skim the two chapter PDF's on Canvas, to help support your reflection as well as your collage product.

2. After reading or skimming these chapters, and watching the Crash Course videos I want you to write your reaction to the different renditions of the historical story. I do not want a summary. I want your reaction to how they are similar and different. Make specific references and use parenthetical citations where appropriate. No more than 1-2 pages typed double spaced, MLA format.

4. The last part of your summer assignment is to create a collage OR drawing that represents your current view of America's identity. NOT WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS TO BE AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. Instead, you are stating what you think America's identity as a country is on a global scale. Consider, how do other countries characterize America's identity? Do you view America as the leader of the free world or a sham? The artwork has to be at least on an 8.5" X 11" piece of paper. Use images, magazine clippings, etc. to create your collage OR use your artistic talent to create your drawing.

5. I will send a form closer to when school starts for you to fill out. I will send it through Synergy.

Your project will be graded for its creativity, craftsmanship, understanding/achievement of your perspective, effort, and overall quality of the work. PRESENT YOUR BEST EFFORT!!!!

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### **Summer Assignment Checklist**

### **MUST BE COMPLETE BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

- I have read/skimmed textbook Chapters 1- 2
  - I have watched all 3 Crash Course US History Videos on YouTube
  - I have typed a 1-2 page reflection and proofread it for grammar and clarity.
  - I have complete my collage/drawing that represents your view of "American Identity"
- (see TLO's listed below)

- I will fill out the form before school starts sent through Synergy and put on Canvas as well.

If you have questions, I will check email bi-weekly in July.

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