

# AP US History II Summer Readings 2010-2011

---

Welcome to AP US History II with Mr. Kaminski! The 2010-2011 school year will be a very busy one as we prepare ourselves for a rigorous Advanced Placement examination on Friday May 06, 2011. APUSH is a *college-level* course that will require you to have *extensive background knowledge* in both US History I and US History II. So, don't throw away your notes from US I – they could come in handy during your preparation for the May exam.

Since this is a *college-level* course that requires *extensive background knowledge* in all aspects of US History, it is imperative that we get off the ground running in September. As such, every APUSH student will be required to complete the following summer reading / first-day-of-school assignments:

## 1) Read one of the following books and email me with your selection prior to September 1, 2010.

- 1812: The War That Forged A Nation (Walter R. Borneman)
- 1912: The Election That Changed the Country (James Chace)
- Dresden: Tuesday February 13, 1945 (Frederick Taylor)
- Flags of Our Fathers (James Bradley)
- Founding Brothers (Joseph J. Ellis)
- Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World (Margaret MacMillan)
- Revolutionary Characters (Gordon Wood)
- The Affluent Society (John Kenneth Galbraith)
- The Age of Reform (Richard Hofstadter)
- The Coldest Winter (David Halberstam)
- The Devil in the White City (Erik Larson)
- The Fifties (David Halberstam)
- The First World War (John Keegan)
- The Rape of Nanking (Iris Chang)
- The Robber Barons (Matthew Josephson)
- Triangle: The Fire That Changed America (David von Drehle)
- We Were Soldiers Once...and Young (Harold G. Moore and Joseph L. Galloway)
- What Hath God Wrought (Daniel Walker Howe)

You are not required to purchase your selected book; however, it may come in handy for highlighting and note-taking purposes. Each of these books is available in paperback format from online vendors like Amazon.com. Most are also readily available at local retail bookstores, or can be ordered by these stores at no additional charge.

## 2) Complete a dialectical journal based on your individual reading selection.

A dialectical journal is set up in the following manner:

Quotation	Page	Reason for selecting this item

By quotation, I mean a selection from the book that you find interesting or important. It does not have to be dialogue from historical characters in the book – it could be a quotation of a fact found in the book, or of an opinion made by the author in the book. After selecting a quotation, you then comment on what you found interesting or important about the selection you chose. While there is no firm requirement for the number of quotations that you should select, I would argue that you should be able to select a *minimum* of 50 interesting items from any of the books listed above. If this is done via computer, you may email it to me by 7:20 AM on Tuesday September 7...but bring a hard copy with you to class on the first day. (You may also email me any this earlier, should you complete the assignment earlier)

**3) Before September 7, 2010 - read the following book:**

- Remini, Robert V. *A Short History of the United States*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2008.

You are not required to purchase this book; however, it may come in handy for highlighting and note-taking purposes. Additionally, it would be a good review in preparation for the exam in May. It is available at Amazon.com and at most major booksellers.

**4) Before September 7, 2010 - answer questions related to the Remini book:**

- These questions will be available for download in Microsoft Word 2007 "docx" format from my personal web site: <http://www.coachk.net>
- Right click the link and select "save target as" then save the file to your hard drive. You will be able to open the file and type your answers directly into the document using Microsoft Word.
- Save your finished questions to your hard drive for backup, and print out a hard copy for me. They are due on the first day of class. If you finish before that time, you can email me them as soon as you are finished.
- If you are unable to access any part of the website, please be sure to contact me via email at [mike@coachk.net](mailto:mike@coachk.net)

**5) On the first day of school – September 7, 2010 you will:**

- Turn in your responses to the Remini reading.
- Turn in your dialectical journal.
  - ✓ These assignments are due on the first day of class. No exceptions. I do not accept late assignments in AP US History, therefore, failure to complete and hand in the assignments would result in a zero for each assignment.
- Also, please have the following supplies with you:
  - ✓ A notebook or three-ring binder (filled with college-ruled paper). I recommend the binder, as it will allow you to separate vocabulary from classroom notes and from other assignments/handouts that you get throughout the year.
  - ✓ Blue or black pens and some No. 2 pencils

Also, it is recommended that students purchase the AMSCO [Preparing for the Advanced Placement Exam](#) review text. This is a valuable resource for reviewing both at home and at school. A limited number of copies are available for classroom use, but a copy for home would prove to be invaluable. It is available at Amazon.com and most major retail bookstores.

Lastly, if you have any questions about these assignments, please contact me immediately. For any questions that arise during the summer recess, I can always be reached at [mike@coachk.net](mailto:mike@coachk.net).

Mr. Kaminski