

Welcome to IB History of the Americas! Throughout this coming year we will be examining, analyzing, and interpreting in depth the pivotal moments of our country's history. Though comparatively brief when the duration of most foreign nations is taken into account, the United States is nevertheless rich in its foundations, beliefs, and character. This course focuses on U.S. History from the 15th century through the 21st century. In order to begin to prepare for the AP United States exam in May, we will need to get a head start this summer on some basics. The following assignments are to be completed and handed in the first day of school. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email or my home number this summer. I look forward to working with you next year!

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Assignment 1 - Geography

Using the US map from the link below (or one you prefer), label and color the two maps (you may use more if you prefer) according to the following directions. You will find multiple internet resources to assist you. Use colored pencils or crayons – not markers - when asked to color.

http://www.coloringcastle.com/pdfs/us_states/united_states_blank.pdf

Map #1 – Coloring Skills!

- A. Label all 50 states and their corresponding capitals.
- B. Choose three different colors. Color the states which remained in the Union during the Civil War. Color the four slave border states which remained in the Union. Color the states which comprised the Confederate States of America during the Civil War.
- C. Mark, color, and label the Great Lakes and the Great Salt Lake.
- D. Mark, color, and label the Mississippi, Missouri, Hudson, Rio Grande, Ohio, and Columbia Rivers.

Map #2 – More Coloring Skills!

- A. Outline, label, and shade the original 13 colonies in purple.
- B. Outline, label, and shade the Louisiana Purchase in green.
- C. Outline, label, and shade the Independent Republic of Texas in yellow.
- D. Outline, label, and shade the Oregon Country (1840s version) in brown.
- E. Outline, label, and shade the territory acquired in the Mexican Cession of 1848 in red.
- F. Outline, label, and shade the Gadsden Purchase in blue.

Assignment 2 – Zinn vs. Flynn – Early North America – Reading! (Yay!!)

- **Read Chapters 1-2** of A People's History of the United States, by Howard Zinn. Zinn's book has introduced new perspectives into the study of American History, and though widely accepted throughout academia, A People's History of the United States continues to be controversial. This can be bought at most book stores or read online at <http://www.historyisaweapon.com/zinnapeopleshistory.html>
- Read *Why Students Should Study History*, an interview between Howard Zinn and Barbara Miner. This can be found at http://www.unit5.org/cms/lib03/IL01905100/Centricity/Domain/2317/Zinn_WhyStudyHistoryEDITED.pdf
- Read *Howard Zinn's Biased History*, by Daniel J. Flynn. Despite his popularity in some academic circles, many historians and authors criticize Zinn and his admittedly leftist leanings. This is an article by conservative author Daniel Flynn, which can be found at the following website: <http://hnn.us/articles/1493.html>

Respond to the following after your reading. (Writing – YAY!!)

A. Purpose

- According to Zinn, what is his main purpose for writing A People's History of the United States?
- What would you consider to be his thesis?

B. Perspective

- How might a person's race and social class affect a person's view of history? How does Zinn address this issue in A People's History of the United States?
- On page 8 of *Why Students Should Study History*, Zinn says, "Objectivity is neither possible nor desirable. It's not possible because all history is subjective; all history represents a point of view." Respond in writing to that statement.
- Zinn also says teachers should give their opinions in class. Do you think this is appropriate in a high school course? Why or why not?

C. Interpretation

- Compare and contrast Zinn's and Flynn's interpretations of the Pequot War. Summarize each historian's interpretation. Which do you find more credible and accurate? Why?

D. Critique

- From what you've read, what do you think about Howard Zinn's approach to history? Substantiate your opinion with evidence from the readings.
- What criticism does Flynn put forth of Zinn as a writer?
- Which one of these historians (Zinn or Flynn) would you rather have as your history teacher? Why?

Assignment 3 – MOVIES! (extra credit)

NOTE: It is recommended that parental permission be given for you to view any film above a PG rating. (Yes, you laugh, but I put it in there anyway. I will not entertain complaints from anyone.)

Watch any three U.S. History films from different periods. There will not be a graded assignment for this component, but this could pay immense dividends as you increase/refresh your knowledge on various topics. The suggested films constitute a range of ratings (PG to R) so please select carefully, and again, secure parent permission for films rated above PG. Use the Film Evaluation Form on p. 4 of this file.

IBHOA Suggested Films (Teacher's most recommended films are indicated by *) (Choose UNFAMILIAR films. Forrest Gump is excluded for a reason!)

1400-1763

- Last of the Mohicans*
- 1492
- The New World
- The Crucible

The Revolution to Civil War

- 1776*
- The Patriot (entertaining, not accurate)
- John Adams (HBO series)
- The Alamo
- Amistad
- Gettysburg
- Cold Mountain
- Glory*
- Gone with the Wind
- Lincoln*

Gilded Age and The West 1870s-1900

- Dances with Wolves*
- Far and Away
- There Will be Blood
- Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee
- Citizen Kane*

WWI to Great Depression

- Fly Boys
- Legends of the Fall
- Cinderella Man*
- Ragtime
- Eight Men Out*
- Seabiscuit*

WWII

- Tora! Tora! Tora!
- Pearl Harbor
- Midway
- Saving Private Ryan
- Patton*
- Tuskegee Airmen
- Bridge over the River Kwai*
- Flags of Our Fathers
- Casablanca
- A League of Their Own
- Truman (1995)
- Red Tails (2012)
- Letters from Iwo Jima

1950s & 1960s (Cold War, Vietnam and Civil Rights)

- M.A.S.H.
- Dr. Strangelove
- Fail Safe*
- 42 (2013)
- Good Night, and Good Luck
- Malcolm X
- Ray
- Platoon*
- Apollo 13
- Pleasantville*

1970s – Contemporary America

- All the Presidents Men*
- Stand and Deliver
- Taking Chance

Just for fun....Cold War Propaganda flicks from the 80s

- War Games*
- Red Dawn

Film Evaluation Form

Name: _____

1. Movie Title: _____

2. Describe the content of the film (what, when, where):

3. Identify three of the main characters in the film, characterize their attitudes, and explain why you evaluate them in that way.

A.

B.

C.

4. Identify three of the main ideas in this film.

A.

B.

C.

On the back of this sheet, provide a summary of the movie and of the parts that made the biggest impressions on you – include what you liked most and what you liked least about this film. Address its historical accuracy.