

Honors US History Summer Reading Assignment

As you all know, Honors courses are very demanding in and out of the classroom. In this class, there is a great deal of expectation that the students will be willing and able to complete a significant amount of work on their own. Accordingly, there is a summer reading and writing assignment required for the course. The assignment will be due the first day of class and if you fail to complete the assignment satisfactorily, you will not remain enrolled in the course.

Assignment

- You need to obtain and read Everyday Life in Early America by David Freeman Hawke. The book's ISBN number is 0-06-091251-0. As you read the book, please write a synopsis of each of the chapters in the book. The synopses should not be a plot summary, rather an analysis of the thesis of the chapter and the manner in which the author supports that thesis. The synopsis should be concise and may be completed in note form. This will count as your first project grade for the course.

- You will also need to obtain our primary text for the course, A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present by Howard Zinn (ISBN number 13: 978-0-06-083865-2). You need to read Chapters 1,2, and 3 by the start of school. For each chapter you should identify the author's thesis of the chapter, provide two substantive questions you have about the chapter, and write a personal reaction to the chapter as a whole or some aspect of the chapter. This will count as your first homework grades for the course.

- This assignment will compromise most of the information for the first unit of the course, Colonial America. As such, there will be a test fairly quickly on Colonial America. The test will be an essay on the manner in which one of the following influenced life in colonial America and the manner in which the colonies differed on those things. To that end, you should be thinking about this as you do the above assignment.
 - Slavery/indentured servitude/labor force
 - Religion
 - Economic Activities
 - Motivation for settlement
 - Natural environment

If you have questions on the assignment, please feel free to email me over the course of the summer.

Following is a list of excellent historical movies. So when you are looking for a movie this summer, think to yourself why not watch something that is entertaining and will help me in Honors U.S. History.

Movies

The Patriot (Revolutionary War)
1776 (early America, Constitution)
The Last of the Mohicans (French and Indian War, early America)
Amistad (slave trade, early 1800's)
Lonesome Dove (frontier America)
Jerimiah Johnson (frontier America)
Dances with Wolves (frontier America, Native Americans)
Gettysburg (Civil War)
Glory (African-American soldiers in Civil War)
All Quiet on Western Front (WWI)
In Harm's Way (WWII)
Saving Private Ryan (WWII)
Patton (WWII)
The Right Stuff (space race)
Mississippi Burning (race relations)
Thirteen Days (Cuban Missile Crisis)
All The Presidents Men (Watergate)
Nixon (Watergate)
Born on the Fourth of July (Vietnam)
Good Morning Vietnam (Vietnam)

Television

This summer instead of watching Friends reruns, watch one of these channels.

- History Channel
- A & E
- PBS