

Mr. Goodheart

AP US History

It is exciting to hear that you are considering joining the APUSH Team! Make no mistake about it, APUSH is truly a challenge for students. Perhaps the number one reason Advanced Placement courses are so challenging is a matter of expectations. Many students taking AP courses for the first time assume that they are no different than honors-level classes, but that is not the case. APUSH is a step up from Honors World History, one you must make consciously and actively. The first few weeks of class will be a difficult transition as you work to determine what is expected of you.

Because APUSH is a college-level course, expectations and standards are higher. This does not mean that APUSH is exactly like the college history course your parents or siblings might remember. Indeed, the workload can at times be much heavier. For the most part students can expect our coverage of American History to go into greater depth and breadth than in other courses. Students will also find that writing and assessment in APUSH can be intense—expect essays and papers!

All of that said, APUSH will be what students make it. AP curriculum and AP teachers are only part of the equation; Honors and AP classes thrive on the curiosity, passion and drive of the students who enroll. Everyone is welcome to enroll, but we do ask that you make the APUSH choice from an informed point of view. Read the expectations below carefully, and take the Summer Assignment seriously. Other than rumors and urban legends, they are the only real source of information you have to determine if APUSH will be the right course for you. Remember--you are choosing to take APUSH. For the majority of NOVA students, regular US History is the appropriate course to take to meet your graduation requirement. If you do not feel that you are ready for APUSH or you do not wish to take the Summer Assignment seriously, then speak to your counselor now and make the switch. Otherwise, I look forward to working with you in the Fall.

To help prepare for the course, all enrolled students will be required to complete a summer assignment and it is due on the first day of class. If you encounter a special circumstance, please contact me at brian-goodheart@nova-academy.org as early as possible. Our first test of the year will be based on the summer assignment and is given during the first week of class. To avoid an early “cram session” and unneeded stress during the first week, finish the work on time. This assignment cannot be finished the night before school begins; it is highly suggested to pace yourself (e.g. give yourself one week/section over the summer break). As always, please check the classroom website regularly for announcements and updates, as I will post here frequently.

Summer Assignment

Assignment Part A: (suggested time – 1 week)

- Read [AMSCO](#)- Chapters 1-3
- Complete Guided Reading and Analysis notes for AMSCO Ch. 1-3
 - [Chapter 1](#) – (print and turn in with handwritten response)
 - [Chapter 2](#) – (print and turn in with handwritten response)
 - [Chapter 3](#) – (print and turn in with handwritten response)

I will NOT accept any late summer work & will result in being dropped from the AP course