

## AP US History Class

The required summer reading is intended to give you the background you need to hit the ground running in August.

- Choose a topic or person that you are interested in but don't know that much about.
- I advise against picking a title for a topic about which you already know a great deal.
- **You must pick someone or some topic from the first half of the course for your summer reading assignment because there will be more books to read later in the year.**
- **TWO books are required for APUSH students over the summer as follows:**

1. **Required for Everyone:** Robert Remini's A Short History of the United States (2008). The book is a quick survey of American history. You will likely find it wanting in some categories, and it has a distinct liberal political bias in the final chapters, but it gives us a snapshot of US history in a package that is less than 400 pages long. **ACTUALLY you don't have to read this book over the summer!! You MUST OBTAIN a copy of the book because it will be part of your regular reading assignments all year long.**
2. **YOU MUST SELECT a title that you will read over the summer.** You may select any book off my list, any reputable presidential biography, or any other American history book that you can get me to approve. **You will write a book report during the first week of school.** I will provide the form, you may bring your book, but no notes will be allowed.

### **Books you may choose...**

**A) A biography of any US President:** My top three influential Presidents are Washington, Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt. My second tier of important Presidents is Jefferson, Jackson, Polk, Teddy Roosevelt, Wilson, Truman, Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Nixon, Reagan. My third tier (sometimes chosen less for their own influence than for their role in events at pivotal times) is Adams, Madison, Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Grant, Cleveland, McKinley, Hoover, Eisenhower, George HW Bush. Below those guys is my fourth tier. You can read about them, but they will likely be of less value to you, and quality biographies of them may be difficult to find. A well written biography is much more than just a life story; you'll get a lot out of it. **Avoid children's books! If the President is still living, they are not eligible as a subject.**  
**THE FIRST HALF OF THE COURSE IS FROM WASHINGTON TO MCKINLEY.**

**- OR -**

**B) Any titles from the following list of topical books:**

**THE FIRST HALF OF THE BOOK IS THROUGH THE GILDED AGE (#15).**

1. Nathaniel Philbrick's Mayflower (2007)
2. Mark Noll's The Old Religion in a New World: The History of North American Christianity (2001)
3. David Davis' Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World (2008)
4. Walter Borneman's The French and Indian War: Deciding the Fate of North America (2007)
5. David McCulloch's 1776 (2006)
6. Joseph Ellis' Founding Brothers (2002) – parallel biographical sketches of the founders

7. Walter Borneman's 1812: The War that Forged a Nation (2004).
8. Arthur Schlesinger Jr.'s The Age of Jackson (1945)
9. Mitchell Snay's Horace Greeley and the Politics of Reform in 19th-Century America (2011)
10. Steven Woodworth's Manifest Destinies: America's Westward Expansion and the Road to the Civil War (2010)
11. John Eisenhower's So Far from God: The U.S. War with Mexico, 1846-1848 (1989)
12. Bruce Catton's The Civil War (2004)
13. Eric Foner's Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution 1863 – 1877 (1988)  
or Eric Foner's Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction (2006)
14. Lawrence Goodwyn's The Populist Moment: A Short History of the Agrarian Revolt in America (abridged version 1978)
15. Rebecca Edwards' New Spirits: Americans in the Gilded Age (2005)
16. Ivan Musicant's Empire by Default: The Spanish-American War and the Dawn of the American Century (1998)
17. Michael E. McGerr's A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920 (2005)
18. Thomas Fleming's The Illusion Of Victory: America In World War I (2003)
19. John Cooper's Pivotal Decades: The United States, 1900 – 1920 (1990)
20. David Pietrusza's 1920: The Year of Six Presidents (2008)
21. Nathan Miller's New World Coming: The 1920's and the Making of Modern America (2004)
22. Robert McElvaine's The Great Depression: America 1929 – 1941 (1993)
23. Walter Klingman The Darkest Year: The American Home Front 1941-1942 (2020)
24. Arthur Herman's Freedom's Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II (2012)
25. Jonathan W. Jordan's American Warlords: How Roosevelt's High Command Led America to Victory in World War II (2015)
26. Thomas A. Guglielmo's Divisions: A New History of Racism and Resistance in America's World War II Military
27. Richard Rhodes' The Making of the Atomic Bomb (1986)
28. Gordon Barrass' The Great Cold War: A Journey Through the Hall of Mirrors (2009)
29. David Farber's The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960's (1994)
30. Stanley Karnow's Vietnam: A History (1997)
31. Arthur Schlesinger Jr.'s The Imperial Presidency (2004)

- or -

**Not on the list?** Send me the title and the author, and I'll look it up and give you an answer. *I hope you are challenged but not intimidated; we have a lot more reading to do before we are done. If you are up for the challenge and not afraid of the workload, then you can do well. Please email or text me at your earliest opportunity. I would like to know about your reading progress. You can email my school account: [wheelers@bocachristian.org](mailto:wheelers@bocachristian.org) or text me at (561) 494-5781.* Have a blessed summer!

# AP European History Course and Summer Reading

AP European History is a college level history course designed to enable students to take the European History Exam offered by the College Board Corp. in the spring of each year. The course and exam are rigorous. AP courses require the students to read and analyze historical sources, to form and defend historical arguments, and to retain a large body of knowledge. Successful students may be able to gain college credit for passing scores on the AP exam.

## **Course Organization**

AP European History has a complex organization scheme based on Periods, Units, and Themes. All three are used for course instruction and grading in this course, but each unit will be tested. Periods align approximately with our school quarterly grading system, but Unit 8 falls within the 3rd quarter, and Unit 9 is tested rather early in the 4th quarter to allow enough days for review.

Unlike AP US History or AP World History, each unit's exam weight and instructional allotment is exactly the same (10 - 15% is recommended for every unit). This means that the course moves quite rapidly. The first unit (the zero unit) is given only nine lesson-days. The Zero Unit is important for background, but it is not technically part of the exam. Units 1 through 9 receive thirteen lesson-days each. If we finish on time, there will be twelve lesson-days reserved for review. Students need to be reading every day to keep up (see the [Reading Schedule](#)).

<b>Periods:</b>	<b>Testing Units</b>	<b>Exam %</b>
	0. Ancient and Medieval Heritage	NA
1. 1450 - 1648	1. Renaissance and Exploration	10% - 15%
	2. Age of Reformation	10% - 15%
	3. Absolutism and Constitutionalism	10% - 15%
2. 1648 - 1815	4. Scientific, Philosophical, & Political Developments	10% - 15%
	5. Conflict, Crisis, and Reaction in the Late 18th Century	10% - 15%
3. 1815 - 1914	6. Industrialization and Its Effects	10% - 15%
	7. 19th Century Perspectives and Political Developments	10% - 15%
4. 1914 - Present	8. 20th Century Global Conflicts	10% - 15%
	9. Cold War and Contemporary Europe	10% - 15%
AP Exam	(date not yet firmly established by AP)	100%

## **Summer Reading**

Reading over the summer is very important for student success. Most students lack comprehensive background knowledge of European history, though they may have considerable knowledge of certain periods and events. Students are required to read **TWO** books over the summer.

1. *A Short History of Europe - from Pericles to Putin* by Simon Jenkins
2. **Any** biography or period history from Periods 1 or 2 (1450 - 1815). That would include everyone from Christopher Columbus and the explorers up through the French Revolution and Napoleon Bonaparte.  
**THESE BOOKS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE INSTRUCTOR VIA GOOGLE CLASSROOM CORRESPONDENCE.**
3. The Jenkins book will be helpful all year long, but will be particularly helpful on the first test (the “Zero Unit.”)