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A.P. US History 2026-2027 Summer Assignment

Ms. Trainor (julia.trainor@k12.dc.gov)

The Course

The Information about the course can be found at the link below. Take some time this summer to read about the curriculum and the exam:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-united-states-history>

Course Description

AP US History is a college-level course that covers 1491 to the present. It is designed to challenge students in their analysis and writing skills. Success in this course requires self-discipline and time management. ***This is not a course you can successfully complete by waiting until the last day of the term to “catch up” and complete assignments.*** This course is a serious time commitment, and it is your responsibility to make sure you complete assigned work on time.

The AP Exam in May will consist of:

- 55 multiple choice questions (55 minutes)
- 3 short answer questions (40 minutes)
- One document-based question essay (60 minutes)
- One long essay question (40 minutes)

Expectations

Students should expect to come to class having completed the previously assigned homework (readings, notetaking, AP classroom quizzes, etc). You will have a large assessment at least once per term and a test on every Unit (there are 9 units total). Assessments consist of writing essays and completing projects based on in-class and out-of-class material.

Summer Assignment

1. If you're on your computer, go to this link to access the AMSCO AP US History textbook.
Read **pages 1-21**: [LINK](#)
 - a. If you're completing the assignment on paper, see attached reading. Read pages **1-21**.
2. Read and take notes (in the notes outline below) on Unit 1, Period 1: 1491-1607
3. Define the vocabulary terms from Unit 1 (1491-1607), listed below. Provide both the definition and the historical significance of each term (why does it matter?). Additionally,

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connect each term to an element of SPICE-T (**S**ocial, **P**olitical, **I**nteraction with **E**nvironment, **C**ulture, **E**conomic, **T**echnology/Innovations).

4. Turning in the assignment: If you complete the assignment on the computer, you can email it to julia.trainor@k12.dc.gov before the first day of school. If you complete it on paper, you can bring it to the first day of class and turn it in.
5. **There will be a quiz on Chapter 1 when we return from summer break!!**

PART 1: GUIDED NOTES

Unit 1, Period 1491-1607 “A New World of Many Cultures” ([pages 1-21](#))

Key Concepts	Guided Notes
1.1: As native populations migrated and settled across the vast expanse of North America over time, they developed distinct and increasingly complex societies by adapting and transforming their diverse environments.	Period Perspectives Alternate View Cultures of Central and South America Cultures of North America Language
1.2: Contacts among Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans resulted in the Columbian Exchange and significant	Southwest Settlements Northwest Settlements Great Plains Midwest Settlements

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social, cultural, and political changes on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.	Northeast Settlements Atlantic Seaboard Settlements Europe Moves Toward Exploration Improvements in Technology Religious Conflict Catholic Victory in Spain Protestant Revolt in Northern Europe Expanding Trade New Routes Slave Trading African Resistance Developing Nation-States
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	Early Explorations
	Christopher Columbus
	Columbus's Legacy
	Exchanges
	Dividing the Americas
	Spanish Exploration and Conquest
	English Claims
	French Claims
	Dutch Claims
	Spanish Settlements in North America
	Florida
	New Mexico

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	Texas
	California
	European Treatment of Native Americans
	Spanish Policy
	Bartolome de Las Casas
	Valladolid Debate
	English Policy
	French Policy
	Native American Reaction
	Historical Perspectives: Was Columbus a great hero?

PART 2: VOCABULARY

Provide the definition, historical significance, and connect it to one element of SPICE-T (see above for what that means)

Exchange and Interaction

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- Corn (maize)
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Horses
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Smallpox
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:

Labor Systems

- Encomienda System
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Asiento System
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Slavery
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:

Migration

- Land Bridge
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:

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- Adena-Hopewell
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Hokokam, Anasazi, and Pueblos
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Woodland mound builders
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Lakota Sioux
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:

Identity and Politics

- Mayas
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Incas
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Aztecs
 - Definition:
 - Significance:

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- Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Conquistadores
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Hernan Cortes
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Francisco Pizarro
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- New Laws of 1542
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Roanoke Island
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:

Atlantic Trade

- Compass
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Printing Press
 - Definition:
 - Significance:

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- Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Ferdinand and Isabella
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Protestant Reformation
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Henry the Navigator
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Christopher Columbus
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Treaty of Tordesillas
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Slave Trade
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Nation-State
 - Definition:

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- Significance:
- Connection to element of SPICE-T:

American Indians

- Algonquian
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Siouan
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Iroquois Confederation
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Longhouses
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:

Search for Resources

- John Cabot
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Jacques Cartier
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:

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- Samuel de Champlain
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Henry Hudson
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Bartolome de Las Casas
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
- Valladolid Debate
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T:
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- Juan Gines de Sepulveda
 - Definition:
 - Significance:
 - Connection to element of SPICE-T: