Welcome to AP US History! This is a rigorous, college-level course designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full year introductory college courses.

As this course covers a substantial amount of historical material spanning almost half a millennium (accompanied by many themes and concepts), it is imperative that we hit the ground running in September. As such, the following assignments are designed to ensure that you are familiar with both the rigor and pace of the course.

So, what are the assignments? You will complete three parts in which you will read key books concerning the development and understanding of US History. Each part comprises essays relating to both the required books.

These assignments must be completed by August 31st at 11:59pm (ET) and submitted via Google Classroom. Please note that these are hard deadlines; meaning that if work is not submitted on time, you may be removed from the course.

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Final checklist:
Here is a checklist:

- Sign up to our Google Classroom with the code above. You will submit the essays here.
- Complete Summer Assignment Part 1
- Complete Summer Assignment Part 2
- Complete Summer Assignment Part 3
- Breathe! - see you soon!

Do not hesitate to reach out via email if you have any questions as you work through this Summer Assignment. Go n-éirí leat!

- Dr. Lawlor
Honor Code Reminder

All submitted work must be original. Canterbury’s Honor Code will be enforced in all cases of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. Use of Chat GPT, translator apps, and similar software is strictly prohibited in this course.

All course assignments, especially this summer assignment, will be assessed by anti-cheating software following submission of said assignment. Should an assignment be found to contain plagiarized material, the assignment will be deemed a 0 and no credit will be awarded. Students found to be using AI software such as those aforementioned will not be permitted to take this course. Further, the case will be forwarded to the school for further disciplinary action.
PART I

Please read chapters 1-7 of Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States." Once completed, write an essay addressing the following:

Based on Chapters 1-7 of Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States," craft an analytical essay that explores the theme of power dynamics and resistance in the early history of America. In your essay, consider the following questions:

- How does Zinn portray the relationships between different groups in early American society, such as indigenous peoples, European settlers, and enslaved Africans?
- Analyze the various forms of resistance exhibited by marginalized groups against oppressive systems and structures during this period. What were some of the strategies used by these groups to assert their agency and challenge authority?
- Discuss the role of ideology and belief systems in shaping the power dynamics of early America. How did concepts of race, class, and gender influence the distribution and exercise of power?

The essay must be 3 pages, double spaced using Times New Roman font.
Please read Benedict Anderson's concept of 'Imagined Communities. Once completed, write an essay addressing the following:

Discuss Benedict Anderson's concept of 'Imagined Communities' and its significance in understanding nationalism and identity formation. In your essay, analyze how Anderson defines an imagined community, explore the role of print capitalism and language in shaping these communities, and examine the implications of his theory in the context of contemporary nation-states and globalization.

The essay must be 3 pages, double spaced using Times New Roman font.
PART III

Please read: Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. Once completed, write an essay addressing the following:

Essay Question: After you have completed your reading, craft an essay responding to the reading. In your response, please examine the major themes raised by the book and what you found striking about these themes. Was there anything particularly compelling about this reading? Would you recommend this reading to a fellow student and if so, why?

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