

U.S. History Honors 2019-2020 Summer Reading Assignment

U.S. History Honors at Oldfields is based on the College Board's AP U.S. History curriculum framework and is designed to prepare students to pass the College Board's AP U.S. history exam. It is a college-level course that requires significant reading and work outside of class throughout the year, including over the summer prior to the beginning of the course. As such, all students enrolled in U.S. History Honors for the 2019-2020 school year are required to complete the following summer reading assignment(s):

1. Students should purchase a copy of Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* (pictured below) and read the first seven chapters (pp. 1-148). Students should then type a short essay of 600-1,000 words that addresses the following prompt and guidelines. Essays should be submitted to Dr. Jernigan at jerniganj@oldfieldsschool.org no later than 5:00PM on Friday, August 30th.
 - The essay should include a thesis statement in the opening paragraph that addresses the following prompt: *Evaluate Zinn's perspective of the history of the United States through the mid-nineteenth century.*
 - The essay should include at least seven body paragraphs summarizing each of the first seven chapters. Each paragraph should include evidence from the chapter (with in-text citations where appropriate) and a clear connection to the thesis statement evaluating Zinn's perspective. Additional paragraphs may be added at your discretion.
 - A conclusion paragraph that neatly summarizes your key arguments
2. (Optional) Students are encouraged to read the College Board's Course and Exam Description for AP U.S. History: <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-us-history-course-and-exam-description.pdf>.
3. (Optional) Ambitious students and/or lovers of history are encouraged to purchase and read Walter Nugent's *Habits of Empire* (pictured below). This book will provide you with additional depth of knowledge on some of the key themes we will study in the course.

