

## Welcome to Back-to-School Night!

Thanks for coming to visit your student's school this evening! I've included a synopsis of important information on this handout for you.

### Homework Load

- The curriculum, established by the College Board, is extremely dense.  
Common assignments:
  - Nightly Reading:
    - Students read approximately 2-3 chapters weekly and are encouraged to take notes for open note quizzes.
  - Viewing Notes
    - These are short videos (approx. 7-30 minutes) designed to “flip” the content students know so that we can work on clarifying understanding and skill development during class sessions.
  - Document Analyses
    - Approximately 2-3 per unit.
  - Works by historians
    - Generally 1 per unit.
  - Research Projects (sparingly)
    - Span length of unit; group projects.

### AP Exam

- The AP Exam for U.S. History is May 5, 2017.
- Three sections:
  - Multiple Choice
    - 55 “stimulus-based” questions, 55 minutes to complete
  - Short Answer Questions
    - Four questions of roughly long-paragraph length, 50 minutes to complete.
  - One *Document Based Question* (DBQ)
    - 55 minutes to write
  - One “Long Essay Question”
    - 35 minutes to write, 70 minutes total

### Curriculum

- Course standards mandated by the College Board
- All courses submitted to the College Board for audit and approval
- Standard: represent first year university level course.

### AP Exam Information

- May 5, 2017
- Exam Fee: approximately \$109.00
- Can earn college credit with a score of “3” or higher
- **AVOID HAVING STUDENTS TAKE THE MAY 6, 2017, SAT Exam!**

### AP Exam Saturday Study Sessions:

- Generally 8:00 AM—12:00 PM
- March 2017: 11, 18, 25
- April 2017: 1, 22, 29

## Sign-up for Remind

Remind is a service that allows for students and families to receive text message and/or e-mail updates about our class. Remind is a free, secure, and safe service; students never see my phone number and I never see theirs.

### To receive text message updates:

Text to: 81010

Enter: @82947

Then SEND

**Or navigate to:**

**<https://www.remind.com/join/8294>**

### For Class Information:

<http://markvanover.weebly.com>

### On Twitter:

**@ToSAMarkVanOver**

### Contact Me:

E-mail:

[mark.vanover@sduhsd.net](mailto:mark.vanover@sduhsd.net)

Phone:

858-350-0153, Ext. 4124

## Test Preparation Books

Test Preparation Guides--I strongly endorse their use!

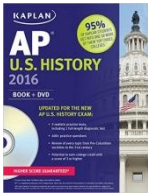
Q: What are they?

A: Test preparation guides are published independently and provide students with an easy means for review of essential material. The AP U.S. History course is dense with material to remember; however, memorization of all of the relevant information that is subject to being tested on the AP U.S. History exam is nearly impossible. Test preparation materials provide quick and easy information at a glance.

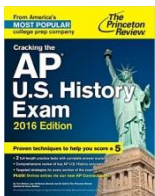
Q: Why purchase the materials?

A: Because managing the information for the course is highly challenging, these materials are extremely helpful for students when reviewing not only for the AP Exam in May, but also for reviewing for each of the unit tests over the course of the school year. They contain quick summaries of each historical period and provide helpful information for students to adequately prepare for both multiple choice and essay tests.

I strongly recommend the purchase of the test preparation guides listed below. If I were able to do so, I would require the purchase of these books. STUDENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PURCHASE THESE BOOKS IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE COURSE! They are very helpful supplements, but they are not in any way required.



Dornbush, Krista, Steven Mercado and Diane Vechhio. Kaplan AP U.S. History 2016. ISBN-13: 978-1625231444 or ISBN-10: 162523144X. This is available online as either a print or Kindle e-edition at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) at a reasonable price. This review guide comes highly recommended from AP U.S. History teachers nationwide.



Princeton Review. Cracking the AP U.S. History Exam: 2016 Edition. ISBN-10: 0804126275 or ISBN-13: 978-0804126274. This is available online as either a print or Kindle e-edition at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) at a reasonable price. This review guide has been a favorite of students for generations.