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Welcome to AP US History!

I am looking very forward to meeting each of you and working together to prepare you for success on the AP exam. Whether you're new to the AP program or a seasoned pro I want you to know that, in this classroom, we are a community - we help each other be successful. AP courses can get intense; it's important that we're able to lean on one another and support each other through each challenge. We accomplish this by:

- Establishing a collaborative learning environment in which you are encouraged to share your knowledge and ideas with your classmates, who will also share with you. Imagine how much more we can accomplish by sharing the best of ourselves and our individual learning with each other!
- Identifying areas where additional help is needed through frequent assessment and opportunities to receive feedback. Help is available through your collaborative learning groups and I make myself available as often as possible to work with you one-on-one to improve skills or content knowledge. All YOU have to do is ASK!
- Establishing a classroom culture that values learning above grades. My grading philosophy is flexible and forgiving; it allows for multiple opportunities to demonstrate learning. If you do not get it the first time, we practice and we try again. **WE DO NOT GIVE UP IF WE DO NOT EXPERIENCE SUCCESS ON THE FIRST TRY! Or the second...or the third...**

More simply, I am here for you. Your classmates are here for you. Together, we will rock this course!

About This Course (from The College Board):

The AP U.S. History course focuses on developing students' understanding of American history from approximately 1491 to the present. The course has students investigate the content of U.S. history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides seven themes (American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places.

Summer Homework:

This summer you will need to set aside some time to complete learning activities that cover content from Periods 1 & 2 (U.S. history prior to 1754).

I know, I know - it's summer - why homework?! Completing some of the coursework during the summer allows me to set aside more class time for the development of historical thinking and writing skills, which are just as important to your success in this course as knowing the content. Because I am a huge proponent of collaborative learning, I encourage you to find some friends to work with on these learning activities. You will learn at higher levels and retain more of the information if you discuss ideas with others.

An assessment on content covered in these activities will be given during the first week of school. **Focus on learning** and your score on this assessment will take care of itself.

Everything you need can be accessed through Google Classroom.

Instructions for accessing Google Classroom:

- Navigate to classroom.google.com
- You must login using your @my.jordandistrict.org email account.
- Your email address should be the first five letters of your last name, the first three letters of your first name, followed by three zeroes.
- Your password is your student ID number.
- In the upper right hand corner click on “Join Class” and input the class code **nc83xq**.

If you have any trouble accessing Google Classroom check the accuracy of your login information first. Then, Google search “how to join a Google Classroom” to find step-by-step instructions.. If you still aren’t able to join, email me from your Jordan District account and I will send an invitation. My email is andrea.hinojosa@jordandistrict.org.

Learning Activities:

Once in the Google Classroom, you will see the following:

- An APUSH summer homework checklist to help you keep track of your progress. The checklist includes web links necessary to access some of the activities, but I have also included links to these websites directly in the classroom.
- Attachments for activities listed on the checklist as “Google Classroom.”

Completed activities should be brought to class on the first day. We will not be using Google Classroom for electronic submissions at this time.

It shouldn’t take more than 8-10 hours total to complete these tasks. Break it up into 1-2 hour blocks and give yourself plenty of time to really think about and absorb the material because, for much of this content, THIS IS your learning opportunity.

Please feel free to email me with any questions. I’m here to help.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and I’ll see you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hinojosa
(pronounced “EE-NUH-HOH-SUH”)