

AP US History Summer Assignment

You will watch **two** required movies for your summer assignment, answering questions and writing a review for each. You will also have the option to watch a third movie for extra credit.

- Required: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*
- Required: Student Choice : See List Below (Choose one movie) 75 points
- Extra Credit (up to 20 points): Same assignment— different movie.

AP US History is an intensely rewarding, but challenging course. One great aspect of APUSH is that if a student makes a 4 or 5 on the exam most public universities and many private universities will give him or her credit for *two* introductory survey courses (6 credit hours), while a 3 will earn credit for one survey course. The vast majority of Runnels students who have taken AP US History have earned a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Exam. This summer assignment is designed to give APUSH students a stronger foundation in US History, as well as prepare students for the academic rigor of the course.

The summer work includes the following assignments.

1. Watch *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, answer the corresponding questions, and complete the movie assignment below.
2. Watch one historical film from the list provided. You are welcome to view movies with classmates, although you must absolutely complete the assignment on your own with no assistance from other students or the internet.
3. After viewing the films, you will complete a movie review; an explanation of the movie review is included on the following pages.
4. The movie review is due the second day of class. (August 15, 2017)
5. You may also watch a 3rd film for “fun” and receive extra credit. I will host a movie-watching event over the summer, so please be on the lookout for that.

We do not have time to view most of these films during class, although we will try periodically to have movie watching events after school. These movies are designed to give you both context and synthesis for a chosen historical period— two key historical thinking skills we will need for AP US History.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee Questions

For the required movie, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, choose **six** of the writing prompts (below) to answer in paragraph form. Be sure to include a topic sentence, and provide specific facts about the movie. Writing is an integral part of any college level social studies course--embrace the writing!

Type your answers in a well-written, well-edited paragraph (7+ sentences). Each paragraph is worth 10 points for a total of 60 points. Students will submit their assignment to the Google Classroom, and may submit the project at any time over the summer break or by the second day of school. You must use Google Docs, but, if you prefer a software program with a strong grammar/spelling checker, you may type your answer into Microsoft Word, cutting and pasting the edited contents into the Google Doc.

Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any questions. I will generally respond to you within 48 hours; if you do not hear from me within that window feel free to email again. Completion of the two assignments shows a willingness to commit to the rigor of the challenging, but rewarding, work of AP US History.

Prompts: Choose 6 questions to answer. Each answer must include a minimum of 7 sentences in a well-edited, typed paragraph).

1. Compare and contrast the characters of Red Cloud and Sitting Bull, noting their similarities and differences.
2. Cite examples from the movie of how Native Americans chose assimilation somewhat voluntarily or were forced to assimilate into white American culture.
3. What was the biggest “killer” of Natives on the reservation (both physical and spiritual)?
4. What is the Ghost Dance, and what role did it play on reservations? Was it effective?
5. Describe how ethnocentrism plays into Henry Dawes and Charles Eastman’s relationship (cite examples from their conversations).
6. Identify and discuss the bias in this movie. What is the point of view of its writers and directors?
7. Charles’s teacher mistakes the name of his chief in a lesson, and Charles becomes angry. How does this mistake affect Charles? What does it prompt him to do? Was the misnaming of the chief on purpose? If so, why?
8. What is Charles’s role in working with Senator Dawes? Do you think he is betraying his people in working with the government? Explain.
9. What are the dilemmas faced by Sitting Bull in Canada? What choices must he make because of the problems presented?
10. What is Charles’s internal conflict toward the end of the story? Explain.
11. Examine the events leading up to the massacre at Wounded Knee Creek. Explain these events, and if the massacre could have been prevented, how so?
12. How does Sen. Dawes feel about the Indians? How does he remain both an ally to the Sioux and an ally to the government?
13. Consider the title of this historical narrative. Why do you think the author entitled *it Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*? (Hint: Whose heart? Why “bury” it?) Think factually and creatively.

AP US History Movie Review

Some of the listed movies contain distressing content, harsh language, and scenes of a sexual or violent nature. I have seen many, but not all of the movies on this list, as the list was compiled by AP US History colleagues. I have noted movies that I particularly enjoyed. Preview the content of the movie through a variety of sources including Commonsense Media, or review the ratings on each movie to determine the potential content. Many of the movies are available on Amazon or Netflix, but others can be found at the East Baton Rouge Parish libraries. Some movies are also available for purchase for under \$5.00.

P.S. I encourage you to watch these movies with your family members and seek their perspective of events that happened to better inform your own opinion.

Guidelines for Movie Review

The first sentences should include the name of film, and identify the leading actors/actresses/, director, the date of release, and main point or thesis of the film.

Part 1: Summary of Historical Movie 1 — 2 pages (25 points)

- A brief summary, written in third person, essay form, describing the time period, plot and main characters. Please make sure you use historical context to discuss historical perspective.

Part 2: Summary of event from a historical source (websites: .org, .gov, or .edu ONLY) 1-2 pgs. (25 points)

- A brief report from a historical source, written in third person essay form, on a time period and characters (when possible) presented in the movie.

Part 3: Comparison of the two sources 1-2 pgs. (25 points)

- What historical or political differences did you find when comparing the movie to the documentary and the historical source? What type of information did you find in the source and documentary that you did not find in the historical text and vice versa?

Part 4: Your opinion of the historical movie 1 pg. (25 points)

- What is your opinion of the movie? What were its strengths and weaknesses? Would you recommend this movie to others? Why or why not? Did the movie provide an accurate insight into history that a standard text might not? Explain your opinions.

POINTS TO REMEMBER!!!

- Wikipedia is unacceptable as a source.
- Provide in text citations and a bibliography for your historical summary (Part 2).
- Plagiarism, copying, or cheating on this assignment in any way may result in disciplinary consequences noted on your permanent record and removal from the AP course.

Possible Films (note some of the films carry an “R” rating)

17th-18th Century

The Crucible (1996) — Salem Witch Trials and an allegory on the McCarthy Hearings

Last of the Mohicans (1992) — French & Indian War

*John Adams** (2008, mini-series) — Adams defends the British soldiers accused in the Boston Massacre

Founding Brothers (2002) — PBS special behind the relationship of many of America's leading Founding Fathers

Jefferson in Paris (1995) — French Revolution, Sally Hemings

19th Century

12 Years a Slave (2013) — Slavery in Louisiana

The Buccaneer (1958) — War of 1812

Crazy Horse (1996) — TV movie depicting the life of the Ogallala Sioux Crazy Horse and his refusal to surrender to U.S. forces

Amistad (1997) — 1839 Slave ship uprising and trial

The Alamo (2004) — 1836 Battle of Texas Revolution or old John Wayne version

Santa Fe Trail (1940) — Lead-up to the Civil War

*Gone with the Wind** (1939) — Antebellum and Civil War South (dated view of Reconstruction and the Civil War).

Gods & Generals (2003) — Rise and fall of Stonewall Jackson

Gettysburg (1993) — Decisive battle of the Civil War

Gangs of New York (2002) — Civil War era cities and immigrants

Glory (1989) — Civil War; African-American regiment 54th Massachusetts

The Searchers (1956) — Classic Western featuring John Wayne, and introducing the mythology of the old West to modern students; this film raises questions about the views of and treatment of Native Americans

Tombstone (1993) — life in the old West

Buffalo Soldiers (1997) — African Americans in the West

Dances With Wolves (1990) — Civil War era relations with Native Americans

Far & Away (1992) — Immigration and Western Expansion

The Molly Maguires (1970) — 1876 Coal miners' strike

20th and 21st Century

All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) — World War I, fighting in trenches

*Inherit the Wind** (1960) — Scopes Monkey Trial

Matewan (1987) — Coal mining strike during the '20s

Cinderella Man (2005) — Depression Era boxer

Grapes of Wrath (1940) — Depression in the Plains and California from John Steinbeck's novel

Tora, Tora, Tora (1970) — Pearl Harbor

Pearl Harbor (2001) — World War II

The Longest Day (1962) — D-Day (John Wayne)

*Band of Brothers** (2001) — World War II, 101st Airborne

Letter from Iwo Jima (2006) — World War II from the Japanese Perspective

Flags of Our Fathers (2006) — American soldiers who raised the flag on Iwo Jima

*Saving Private Ryan** (1998) — World War II

The Best Years of Our Life (1946) — World War II soldiers return home

*The Right Stuff** (1983) — 1950s Cold War, beginning of space race

Best Years of Our Lives — Post World War II society

October Sky (1999) — Post Sputnik; boy meets rocketry

Dr. Strangelove (1964) — Cold War arms race
*Apollo 13** (1995) — NASA tries to prevent disaster after a failed attempted moon landing.
Frost/Nixon (2008) — The post-Watergate interviews between David Frost and President Richard Nixon
*The Majestic** (2001) — McCarthyism; Hollywood blacklisting
Trumbo (2015) — A top Hollywood screenwriter was jailed and blacklisted during the 1950s McCarthy Hearings
*Pleasantville** (1998) — 1950s America
Mississippi Burning (1998) — Civil Rights
*Ghosts of Mississippi** (1996) — The fight to bring the killer of Civil Rights leader Medger Evers to justice in modern times
*A Time to Kill** (1996) — A legal team defends a father who kills his young daughter's white rapists.
*Remember the Titans** (2000) — Depicts the court-forced 1970s integration of a high-school football team in Virginia.
*Thirteen Days** (2000) — Cuban Missile Crisis
JFK (1991) — Kennedy assassination
Bobby (2006) — JFK's younger brother
Mississippi Burning (1986) — The murder of three civil rights workers
The Help (2011) — Story of Civil Rights through the eyes of an idealistic young woman
Twelve Angry Men (1957) — Jury decision in the 1950s, including themes of class and justice
Malcolm X (1992) — Influential Black Nationalist leader
*Forrest Gump** (1994) — Various events 1950s through 1980s
*We Were Soldiers** (2002) — Vietnam War
The Deer Hunter (1973) — Vietnam War and its impact (graphic)
Platoon (1986) — Vietnam War (a young Charlie Sheen)
Return with Honor — PBS (American Experience) about POW's and their return home
*Good Morning Vietnam** (1987) — Vietnam War
*Bridge of Spies** (2015) — Spying between the USA and Soviet Union during the Cold War
Two Days in October — Protest of Vietnam War at University of Wisconsin
*All the President's Men** (1976) — Watergate
Black Hawk Down (2001) — USA attempts to provide humanitarian aid to Somalia
Selma (2013) — American Civil Rights Movement
Charlie Wilson's War (2007) — The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
*Zero Dark Thirty** (2011) — The hunt for Osama Bin Laden – aftermath of 9/11

*A Mrs. Marsh favorite

Some movies are not on the list as they may be watched during the school year.