

Dear Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Advanced Placement program for United States History. In APUS History we delve into the political, social and economic forces that have shaped our current American political tradition. This course requires a significant amount of reading, purposeful student contribution and a commitment to excellent attendance. You will be challenged to think conceptually, explore issues thematically and participate meaningfully.

A list of required paperbacks is given below. You will need to purchase these books for the beginning of class in August. Several APUS History students in the area use these books so I recommend you acquire them early in the summer before they become unavailable. In addition, there is a **summer assignment** to ensure that students are prepared for the beginning of class in the fall. Included with this letter is a packet of information to research and define over the summer. **All terms must be defined and be hand written.** I will not accept "cut and pasted" material. The summer assignment is due the first day of class.

The goal of the Advanced Placement program is to achieve passing scores on the Advanced Placement Test. These scores translate into college credit indicating that the student has demonstrated the ability to do university level work. We have a history of doing well on the AP tests and I intend to maintain the high standards demanded by the AP program. If you believe you would like to meet those standards then I encourage you to join us.

Sincerely,

W. Garrett Shriver  
Department Chair  
Social Studies  
Bolton High School

Texts:

Degler, Carl N. *Out Of Our Past. The Forces That Shaped Modern America*  
Hofstadter, Richard. *The American Political Tradition And The Men Who Made It.*