

Dual Credit United States History

Summer Reading Assignment

In preparation for the 2009-2010 school year

Instructor: Mrs. Butler rebecca.grudzinski@nisd.net

Due date: the first Friday day of school, August 28, 2009

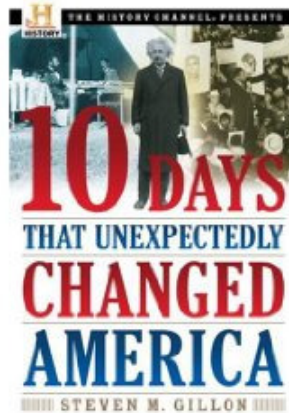
(Please note that students enrolled in the AP US History course have a different assignment. Students who are taking the AP course and also earning dual credit do not complete this assignment, they only need to complete the assignment for the AP course. **The following assignment is for students registered ONLY in the dual credit course**).

Dual Credit US History is a basic survey course that allows students to examine our history in detail through historical documents, pop culture, and the use of a college textbook. We will find many American historical figures to admire, and we will find plenty of others to despise. Our past is not always pretty, but we will study it all. In order to get you into the mindset of thinking historically, preparation for this course begins during the summer months. **The following assignment is due the first Friday of school, August 28, 2009.**

If you have any questions about the course or the summer assignment please feel free to contact me. Course information can also be found on my outreach page.

Your Summer Assignment:

- You will need to purchase and read *10 Days That Unexpectedly Changed America* by Steven M. Gillon. Copies are readily available at all major bookstores, Half Price Books, and Amazon.com (pre-owned copies start at \$0.19. No that is not a mis-print, just 19 cents!).



While reading, you will be required to keep a reading journal for **every chapter** of the book. For each chapter, your journal should include the 4 topics as follows in this order:

- THESIS:** The author's thesis or main point for the chapter – this is often found in the introduction of the chapter and revisited at the conclusion. What is the author trying to prove to you in this chapter?
- VOCABULARY CHART:** on the left, write down any historical term, event, person, place or reference that you do not fully understand; on the right, write down any general vocabulary word you do not understand. Research an explanation for the vocabulary and record the information.

<u>History Vocabulary</u>	<u>General Vocabulary</u>
term – explanation	term – explanation

3. **GENERAL NOTES:** follow the events or argument the author puts forth – remember the S word in history: SIGNIFICANCE! What was the significance of what you wrote down – if you don't know, you probably shouldn't have written the note.
4. **REFLECTION:** At the end of the chapter – in your own words – what was the point of the chapter, what did it make you think about while reading (any links to other parts of history?), what questions do you still have about the chapter?

At the very end of all 10 entries (one for each chapter), you must play the historian. Based upon all the evidence, you need to rank the events based on your opinion of their importance. Number 1 should be the most important, number 10 the least important. **In addition to ranking the events, you must justify the ranking in a brief paragraph.** EXAMPLE: If you choose Chapter 5 “The Homestead Strike” as the most important event you must explain why compared to the others in the book it is most significant. **Each event should have a justification for its ranking.**

Your reading journal can be in a notebook or on loose-leaf notebook paper that is neatly together in chronological order. The journal must be **hand-written** – no typed notes or copied and pasted entries from the internet. **Your journal will count as a major grade and is due August 28.** Additionally, you will take a quiz on the book during the first week of school. **(Note: you will take the quiz before the journal is due. The expectation is that this assignment is completed over the summer and should be complete on the first day of school even though the due date is on Friday).** This will be the only time during the school year that you may use your notes (your reading journal) on a quiz. Only handwritten reading journals will be allowed as notes for use on the quiz. The date of the quiz will be posted on my outreach page this summer.

TO DO WELL ON THIS ASSIGNMENT, YOU MUST
FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS!