

Objectives: This assignment is designed to allow you to investigate the aspects of US history that most interest you, while addressing the various themes that together create a complete historical picture. These are as follows: American Identity, Politics and Power, Work/Exchange/Technology, Culture and Society, Migration and Settlement, Geography and Environment, and American in the World.

Assignment: Each nine weeks, you will choose and investigate person or event of significance in AMERICAN history. You will begin by watching a film on that topic, chosen from the attached list. Then you will conduct additional research to answer the following questions. Your choices must come from different time periods on the attached list of films for each nine weeks.

Procedure:

Part I. Film Analysis

- A. From the film, summarize the story of the person or event. Make sure you present this summary in your own words. Be sure to include basic information about time and place.
- B. Using your textbook AND at least one other reliable, credible, academic secondary source, briefly explain at least one important and significant aspect of your topic that were not addressed in the film. (Do NOT use encyclopedias, online or otherwise. Do NOT use history.com or biography.com or similar commercial sites.)
- C. What conflicts do you find between your research and the film? Explain any historical inaccuracies or fallacies from the film.

Part II. The following questions, based on the 7 APUSH themes, generally focus on the broader **time period** of your topic. Again, you should use your textbook and at least one other reliable, credible, academic secondary source. Do NOT use encyclopedias, online or otherwise. Do NOT use history.com or biography.com or similar commercial sites.

- A. American and National Identity: How was American national identity defined during the time period of the film? How did it impact the person or event you are researching? Consider one or more of the following:
 - the expression of democracy, freedom, and individualism
 - conflicts over interpretation of constitutional rights and liberties as well as the definition of citizenship
 - changes in national identity as a result of international conflicts or the growth of the U.S.
 - the relationships between people of different regional, ethnic, social, and racial groups in America and how their experiences related to American national identity
- B. Politics and Power: Who were the major political leaders at the time of your topic? What groups of people were most powerful? What issues or political debates characterized politics at that time? What views were expressed at the time about what the role of government should be? How was your person or event impacted by these?
- C. Work, Exchange, and Technology: What was the economic status of the main characters in your film or the persons you are researching? How did that influence their work? What economic patterns or issues of that time period had the greatest impact? Explain what technological innovations impacted your person or event.
- D. Culture and Society: For the time period of the topic you are researching, explain one or more of the following:
 - What religious groups and ideas impacted American society and political life?

- What artistic, philosophical, and scientific ideas developed and/or shaped society and institutions?
 - How did ideas about women’s rights and gender roles affect society and politics?
 - What different group identities, including racial, ethnic, class, and regional identities emerged, or how did they change?
- E. Migration and Settlement: Examine immigration and/or internal migration patterns (know the difference!) that affected American life during the time period of your topic. How was your topic impacted by these trends?
- F. Geography and Environment: What geographic and/or environmental factors influenced the topic you are researching? How did competition for natural resources affect your person/event directly or influence interactions between groups of people or affect government policy at the time?
- G. America in the World: What major international events defined the time period you are researching? What was America’s role? Do these events reflect American cultural interaction, cooperation, competition, or conflict? What were the outcomes for America?

Part III. Select two primary sources directly related to the topic of your research. Explain their relevance to your topic. You may use any of the following:

- Artifacts
- Letters
- Maps/Charts/Graphs
- Newspapers/
Magazines
- Personal Interviews
- Photographs (Series)
- Sound Recordings

Documentation (What you need to turn in):

- A. You may present your information however you prefer: on paper or poster, electronically in a Google doc or Google slideshow, in a video, or some other way. However, I discourage use of Prezi—it makes me dizzy. 🤪
- B. Turn in a Works Cited list, with complete citations for ALL the sources you used. Use MLA format.

Grading and Due Dates: This assignment is worth 100 points for each quarter. Due dates for first semester will tentatively be September 24/25 and December 4/5.

For documentation purposes, keep this in your notebook and fill it out as you go throughout the year:

Topic
Q1
Q2
Q3
Q4

MOVIES ON AMERICAN HISTORY

Periods 1-3:

1492: Conquest of Paradise
The New World
The Mission
The Crucible
Last of the Mohicans
April Morning
1776
The Crossing
All for Liberty
John Adams (Episodes—choose 3)
Turn (Episodes—choose 3)
Hamilton (play—not available on film)

Periods 4-6:

Amistad
12 Years a Slave
Roots
The Alamo (1972)
The Conspirator
Gettysburg
Glory
Lincoln
Field of Lost Shoes
13th
Far and Away
True Grit
Dances With Wolves
Tombstone
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee

Period 7:

Gangs of New York
The Lost Battalion
Flyboys
Iron-Jawed Angels
Eight Men Out
Inherit the Wind
The Color Purple
O Brother Where Art Thou?
The Grapes of Wrath
Windtalkers
Flags of Our Fathers
Unbroken
Saving Private Ryan
Band of Brothers—Episodes 2 and 9

Period 8:

Good Night and Good Luck
The Manchurian Candidate
42
West Side Story
Mississippi Burning
JFK
13 Days
Hidden Figures
The Right Stuff
Selma
Ghosts of Mississippi
Malcolm X
Loving
Platoon
We Were Soldiers
Apollo 13
All the President's Men
Nixon
Frost/Nixon
Harlan County, USA
Milk
Norma Rae

Period 9:

Argo
Miracle
Philadelphia
Blackhawk Down
World Trade Center
Charlie Wilson's War
The Big Short
Spotlight
Zero Dark Thirty

See me about documentaries covering events from any of these periods.

APUSH INDEPENDENT POINTS GRADING RUBRIC

___ (16 points) **Film Analysis**

- ___ Summary, written in your own words (6 points)
- ___ Additional Information, briefly explained (5 points)
- ___ Conflicts between film and research, briefly explained (5 points)

___ (42 points/6 points each): **Themes/Historical Period.** Be sure to address the questions from the assignment sheet about these themes!

- ___ American and National Identity
- ___ Politics and Power
- ___ Work, Exchange, and Technology
- ___ Culture and Society
- ___ Migration and Settlement
- ___ Geography and Environment
- ___ America in the World

___ (10 points/5 points each.) **Primary Sources** are incorporated into your presentation clearly and smoothly. Choices are relevant to the topic and significant.

___ (16 points) **Presentation**—Your choice of format. Grade is based on clarity, thoroughness, organization, and absence of errors.

___ (16 points) **Works Cited List** should be in correct MLA format, alphabetized, and should include ALL your sources if you use more than the required minimum. Regardless of the format of the rest of your project, please turn this in as a document, not part of a slideshow. It should include the following:

- Film
- Textbook
- At least two reliable, reliable, credible, academic secondary sources; no encyclopedias, history.com, etc.
- At least two primary sources

Of course, your work must be your own!