



# KING SCHOOL

**2017 Summer Assignment**

**HIS 500: AP US History**

## Summer Reading Study Guide HIS-500: AP US History (Mr. Galanopoulos)

Alan Taylor, Colonial America. A Very Short Introduction. Oxford, 2013.  
Robert J. Allison, The American Revolution. A Very Short Introduction. Oxford, 2015.  
Heather Andrea Williams, American Slavery. A Very Short Introduction. Oxford, 2014

Below please find the study guide for your summer reading assignment. *Colonial America* is mandatory, and you have an option of reading one of the other two books (you may read all three if you like). You will be taking a long essay (5 paragraphs) and/or a short answer test on the second and/or third day of class based on any of those questions. I strongly suggest that you read a book first, and then go back and answer the questions. This way you will be able to better connect to the broader context of the questions. Take extensive notes on the questions. You do not need to hand in any answers; your notes are for your understanding of the reading. I hope that you enjoy the quality of the reading!

### Questions for *Colonial America*:

According to historian Alan Taylor:

What were the political, socio-economic, and cultural characteristics of pre-Columbian Native American societies?  
What were the socio-political and cultural characteristics of African societies before European colonization?  
What European conditions led to American colonization?  
Europeans and Indians: Contact or Encounter? How did they view each other? How were they influenced by each other?  
What was the impact of the slave trade on European developments?  
What was the impact of the slave trade on globalization?  
How did European colonizing methods differ, and what is the significance?  
What was the impact of European colonization?  
How differently did the 13 colonies grow?  
How democratic were the colonies?  
How did colonial and European relations develop?  
To what extent was there social mobility?  
How did relations between Indians and colonist develop?  
Why was slavery instituted?  
How did slavery develop?  
To what extent was there gender equality?  
How did immigration shape colonial society?  
How was the American identity molded? Was it different than the British?  
In your opinion, what is the author's point of view concerning the significance of Colonial America for understanding later historical developments?



Questions for *The American Revolution*:

According to historian Robert Allison:

- What were the causes and effects of the French and Indian War, 1754 to 1763?
- Why did the French and Indian War lead to the American Revolution?
- What were the causes and effects of the American resistance to British imposed taxes and other laws affecting the colonies from 1764 to 1774?
- What were the historical factors that contributed to the American Revolution, other than taxes?
- Were the taxes the main cause?
- Why did the Declaration of Independence happen when it did? Was it coming for a long time or did it happen suddenly? Or did it happen contingently?
- How significant was the Declaration of Independence in founding the principles of a new nation?
- What were the main turning points of the War of the Revolution?
- Could the War be won without French aid?
- How were the various social groups affected by the war of the Revolution?
- How radical was the American Revolution?
- Was colonial society and culture different than British society and culture on the eve of the American Revolution?
- In your opinion, what is the author's point of view concerning the significance of the American Revolution in American life?

Questions for *American Slavery*:

According to historian Heather Williams:

- What were the causes of the European slave trade?
- How did economic factors impact the institutionalization of slavery and racial relations?
- How did the American Revolution impact the status of slavery?
- How did Thomas Jefferson view slavery? How is he symbolic of early American views of slavery?
- How did the early United States deal with the problem of slavery?
- How did African Americans come to terms with their status as slaves in colonial America?
- How did African Americans come to terms with their status as slaves during the early and antebellum United States?
- Why did the United States not abolish slavery without a civil war?
- Why did slavery end up causing the Civil War?
- In your opinion, what is the author's point of view concerning the problem of slavery in American life?

