

AP US History / Mr. O'Connor Summer 2009 Assignment – For all students, Fall and Spring Terms

Due Date: Friday, August 28, 2009

Instructor website:

www.historycorner.net

Part I

Read and complete the Study Guides for the **first four chapters** (81 pages) of the text, *The American Pageant*. Study guides can be obtained on the instructor's website. Study guide responses will be legibly hand-written in pen. **There will be a test on these chapters on the first Friday of school.**

Part II

Response Essay: "Was the American Revolution a Conservative Movement?" Readings by Carl N. Degler and Gordon S. Wood

Read the arguments presented by Professors Degler and Wood. You might want to read both essays once without taking notes. Then read each one a second time, making note of important evidence that could be used to support your argument or to counter the opposing argument for your essay below.

ISSUE SUMMARY YES: Pulitzer Prize-winning author Carl N. Degler (*Out of Our Past: The Forces That Shaped Modern America*, Harper & Row, 1970) argues that upper-middle-class colonists led a conservative American Revolution that left untouched the prewar economic and social class structure of an upwardly mobile people.

NO: Prize-winning historian Gordon S. Wood (*The Radicalism of the American Revolution*, Alfred A. Knopf, 1991) argues that the American Revolution was a far-reaching, radical event that produced a unique democratic society in which ordinary people could make money, pursue happiness, and be self-governing.

Directions: Respond to the question below in the form of a 3-page typed essay. Your essay should be computer generated, with 1-inch margins, double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman font. Be sure to **choose a side** and use evidence from the readings to support your ideas. I want to get a sense of your writing ability, the sophistication of your vocabulary, and your rhetorical skills (your ability to formulate and sustain an argument).

*To what extent was the American Revolution revolutionary? Was this a radical event or was the outcome something that merely preserved the social order with a slightly different group of elites? Using the information in the readings, argue a clear point of view, taking sides with one of the historians. Understand that there is no single definitive "right" answer; successful essays are those that can state a clear thesis, marshal evidence to support that thesis, and counter opposing arguments with reason and clarity. **Due on the first Friday of school.***