

AP American Studies Summer Reading 2015-2016
(LUDLOWE – Nulf & Parisi)

Dear 2015-2016 AP American Studies Students,

Welcome to AP American Studies. This summer assignment will commence your rigorous study of the American experience. Over the course of the summer, you will read several major texts. You will also reflect and take notes in response to guide questions about these materials. The readings and questions should stimulate your critical thinking capabilities of **questioning, analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing**. This work is a requirement of the course and must be completed by the first day of class. Please be prepared to participate in meaningful and detailed discussion of these works, and to complete written responses at the beginning of the year making use of your notes.

Read the following books and chapters.

- Chapters 1, 2, & 3 of *Inventing America (US History Textbook)*
- *A Voyage Long and Strange*, by Tony Horwitz
- *Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks

Expectation:

1. Read all three assignments above.
2. Active Note-taking: As you read, annotate the texts with your own questions, insights, and reactions.
3. Reflective Notes: After you read each segment below, draw conclusions, pose questions, recognize patterns/themes.

You may choose to purchase and write in your own copies or borrow copies from the FLHS book-room, and take notes on sticky-notes, a reading notebook, or in electronic form. Your notes **will not be collected**, but they will be critically important in preparing you to for assessments, discussions and essays as we commence the year.

Suggested Schedule:

Read *Inventing America* first to provide yourself with historical context for the novels.

Week of July 1: Chapter 1, *Inventing America*

Week of July 8: Chapter 2, *Inventing America*

Week of July 15: Chapter 3, *Inventing America*

Week of July 22: First 200 pages, *A Voyage Long and Strange*

Week of July 29: Finish *A Voyage Long and Strange*

Week of August 5: First 150 pages, *Caleb's Crossing*

Week of August 12: Finish *Caleb's Crossing*

Week of August 19: Review your notes in preparation for first day of class.

Guideposts to your reading and note-taking:

- Cultural influences on individual decision-making (religious, political, economic, social values)
- Internal and external conflicts within and between cultures
- Adaptation of culture to environmental circumstances and emergence of unique American characteristics
- Pivotal moments of transition for individuals, cultures and civilizations
- The craft and purpose of storytelling across our three texts