

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY SUMMER READING LIST

### It's a Summer of Murder and 'Murica

For Summer Reading Assignment #2, select one of the following books. The paper for this assignment is due Wednesday, August 17th, the first day of school.

- *The Alienist*, Caleb Carr

The *Alienist* is a fast-paced, well-written historical fiction about a serial killer, and those attempting to catch him. Set in 1896 New York City, Police Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt enlists the help of a psychologist (Alienist) and a team of unusual characters to solve the crimes. Enter into the Gilded Age and experience the wealth, corruption and brutality of America's biggest city.

- *American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, the Birth of the "It" Girl and the Crime of the Century*, Paula Uruburu

Having trouble "keeping up with the Kardashians"? Want to know the origins of modern America's "celebrity culture"? This is the scandalous story of America's first supermodel, sex goddess, and modern celebrity, Evelyn Nesbit, the temptress at the center of Stanford White's famous murder, whose iconic life story reflected all the paradoxes of America's Gilded Age. *American Eve* explores such issues as fame, gender, sex and the media; all things we are still wrestling with.

- *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President*, Candice Millard

The extraordinary *New York Times* bestselling account of James Garfield's rise from poverty to the American presidency, and the dramatic history of his assassination and legacy. James Abram Garfield was one of the most extraordinary men ever elected president. But four months after Garfield's inauguration in 1881, he was shot in the back by a deranged office-seeker named Charles Guiteau. *The Destiny of the Republic* brings alive a forgotten chapter of U.S. history.

- *The Devil in the White City*, Erik Larson

Larson tells the story of two men to illustrate life in America just before the turn of the 20th century. Architect Daniel H. Burnham was the driving force behind the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago which astounded the world with its architecture and engineering marvels. The other man was Dr. H. H. Holmes, America's first serial killer, who preyed on young women who came to Chicago looking for work at the fair.

- *The Poisoner's Handbook*, Deborah Blum

Equal parts true crime, twentieth-century history, and science thriller, this is a fascinating tale of early 20<sup>th</sup> century New York, where poisons offered an easy path to the perfect crime. Science had no place in the Tammany Hall-controlled coroner's office, and corruption ran rampant. However, with the appointment of chief medical examiner Charles Norris in 1918, the poison game changed forever. Follow the various cases and find out how the U.S. Government once poisoned the alcohol during the 1920s.

## APUSH

### Summer Reading Assignment #2

From the list provided to you for summer reading, select one book and do the following:

1. Summarize the book of your choice
2. Explain the author's perspective on the subject
3. Describe what others could learn about a particular historical period or topic from the book you selected

Papers should be typed/word processed, double-spaced, 12 font, and be 2-3 pages in length. NOTE: Papers less than two pages long and papers more than three pages long will receive an automatic 20 point deduction.

**Due Date:** Wednesday, August 17th, the first day of school (100 points)

- Papers one day late are automatically reduced 50%
- Papers more than one day late receive zero credit

NOTE: All papers must also be submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) to be eligible for a grade. *You will be supplied with a class ID number and password on August 17th.*