

## Honors Identity and Culture in Modern US History, 1865-Present

Mr. Bailey — 2021 Summer Reading Assignment

Congratulations and welcome to EA History's 2020-2021 "Honors Identity and Culture" elective. This course promises to be engaging, relevant, and enlightening. So that we're ready to hit the ground running in September, I ask that you read **two books** and complete **one written reflection** this summer.

- Choose **one** of these two books:
  - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Americanah* (2014) **OR**
  - Barack Obama, *Dreams from my father* (2004)
- This book is **required**: Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction* (2015)

Summer Reading Assignment (**part one due 9/1 and part two will be due 9/25**) :

- 1) Read Barack Obama, *Dreams from my Father* (2004) **or** Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Americanah* (2014), and complete the following exercises.
  - a) Select at least **four passages** (single paragraphs or multi-paragraph passages) from your chosen book that speak to the author's understanding of identity in the United States (including race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, or other aspects of identity). At least two of your paragraphs should come from the *first half* of the book and at least two should come from the *second half* of the book.
  - b) Use the four passages you've selected to answer the following question:

**What does it mean to be American?**

Your answer should be **2-3 pages (double spaced)** and it should include *your own personal opinions and beliefs* as well as *ideas based on your chosen author's point of view*. You must refer at least once to each of the four passages you've chosen.
  - c) Reflection Requirements:
    - i) Answer the question clearly and directly
    - ii) 2-3 pages (double spaced, normal font, 1-inch margins)
    - iii) Include a title and page numbers
    - iv) Use parenthetical citations to indicate the page numbers of any quoted or paraphrased passages from the text you read. Example: (Adichie, 23)
- 2) Read Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction*. As you're reading, for each chapter, highlight or underline the sentence or sentences that you believe convey the chapter's main idea. You will be asked "short answer" questions about each chapter as a take home assignment (you may use the book to answer) early in the first semester.