

Course Name: African American Literature

Duration: 1 Semester Full Year

Grade Level: 9th 10th 11th 12th (check all that apply)

Are there any prerequisites for the course?

No

WHAT this course is about:

African American studies is an interdisciplinary course that examines the diversity of African American experiences through direct encounters with authentic and varied sources. Students explore key topics that extend from early African kingdoms to the ongoing challenges and achievements of the contemporary moment. This course foregrounds a study of the diversity of Black communities in the United States within the broader context of Africa and the African diaspora.

WHY take this course:

This course challenges traditional historical narratives about the African American experience. Through the lens of African American studies, students will learn close reading and writing skills required for English 11 or 12 credit.

WHAT you'll learn:

Students will learn key concepts, historical developments, and processes that have shaped Black experiences and debates within the field of African American studies.

WHAT you'll do:

Identify the intersections of race, gender, and class, as well as connections between Black communities, in the United States and the broader African diaspora in the past and present.

Analyze perspectives in text-based, data, and visual sources to develop well-supported arguments applied to real-world problems.

Demonstrate understanding of the diversity, strength, and complexity of African societies and their global connections before the emergence of transatlantic slavery.

Evaluate the political, historical, aesthetic, and transnational contexts of major social movements, including their past, present, and future implications.

Develop a broad understanding of the many strategies African American communities have employed to represent themselves authentically, promote advancement, and combat the effects of inequality and systemic marginalization locally and abroad.

Identify major themes that inform literary and artistic traditions of the African diaspora.

Describe the formalization of African American studies and new directions in the field as part of ongoing efforts to articulate Black experiences and perspectives and create a more just and inclusive future.

Connect course learning with current events, local interests, and areas for future study.

WHERE this could take you:

African American Studies is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college or university course in African American Studies and related courses, including African American Literature, Africana Studies, Black Studies, and African Diaspora Studies.

OPTIONAL Course Outline (“scope and sequence”, sequence chart, etc.)

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