

The African American

EXPERIENCE

Course Syllabus

Contact Info: jali@keansburg.k12.nj.us

Course Description: History & perspective from the African American Experience

This course will present students with a framework for understanding the perspective of the black experience by examining the historical and cultural aspects of the Black experience from an African centered standpoint. This course is intended to add critical thinking skills, via the use of philosophical concepts by engaging students in an analysis of the history and information of African people and their descendants in America. This course will use a combination of lectures, audiovisual and extensive discussion focusing on the historical and cultural representation of thinking from an African centered perspective. Upon completion of this course students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical roots from an African centered perspective and be able to identify the development of African Americans.
- Display knowledge of the African centered worldviews and its role in the psychological study of people of African decent.
- Expose the students to the intellectual and academic importance of the African-American Experience
- Uncover the different academic experiences of the African-American in the United States
- Provide students with a theoretical frame-work for further research in the field of African-American studies, and
- Give students an understanding of the contributions of African-Americans to the overall development of the United States and the world.

Course Objective:

Students will:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of democratic citizenship
- Illustrate a high level of proficiency in historical and geographic knowledge
- Demonstrate an understanding of chronology
- Use historical records to support or oppose arguments and positions
- Interpret and apply data from primary and secondary sources
- Utilize a variety of technological programs to complete assignments and historical research for the purpose of assessment

Course Text(s):

- Shillington, Kevin “History of Africa” Third Edition. Palgrave Macmillan
- Grant-Britton, Lisbeth “African American History”. Holt McDougal
- Stewart C., Jeffrey “1001 Things Everyone Should Know About African American History”. Broadway Books
- Gates L., Henry and West, Cornell “The African American Century”. Touchtone Books

Course Materials Required:

- Mac Book
- Thumb/Flash Drive
- Folder
- Notebook
- ***THE ATTITUDE THAT GOOD ENOUGH IS NEVER ENOUGH!!! BRING YOUR “A” GAME.***

Grading Policy:

Grade percentages will be consistent with Keansburg Board of Education policy. These grading percentages can be viewed on the school district’s website or in your student handbook. ***All grades are earned NOT given.***

“Reach high, for stars lie hidden in you. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal.”

AAE Honors Grading System:

Your grade will be calculated with the following values

- Tests and essays = 50% of your total grade, projects will be valued as 2 tests
- Classwork and Homework = 30% of your total grade
- Quizzes = 20% of your total grade

Second Chance:

This will be consistent with district policy. All students have the opportunity to retake any test or quiz within 5 days of receiving the graded assessment. Furthermore, class policy will allow any student to make-up any missing assignment with a 10-point penalty for each school day late. Lowest grade given for a make-up assignment will be a 50%. There are no extra credit assignments for this class. **DO YOUR WORK AND DO IT ON TIME!!!**

Keys for Success:

- ***Be on time in regards to attendance and assignments***
- ***Organization and preparedness will bring you success***
- ***Continue to develop superior research skills, it saves time***
- ***If you don’t know you better ask somebody***

- *Credit all sources; plagiarism will be handled in a serious manner*
- *Respectfully share thoughts, opinions, resources and knowledge with your peers, together we succeed*

Course Outline:

Twelve themes will be identified, analyzed, critically thought over, written about and discussed:

American Diversity

The diversity of the American people and the relationships among different groups. The roles of race, class, ethnicity, and gender in the history of the United States.

African American Identity

Views of the African American national character and their role in American exceptionalism. Recognizing regional differences within the context of what it means to be American.

Culture

Diverse individual and collective expressions through literature, art, philosophy, music, theater, and film throughout U.S. history. Popular culture and the dimensions of cultural conflict within American society.

Demographic Changes

Changes in birth, marriage, and death rates; life expectancy and family patterns; population size and density. The economic, social, and political effects of immigration, internal migration, and migration networks.

Economic Transformations

Changes in trade, commerce, and technology from Ancient Africa to 21st century Obama Care.

Environment

Ideas about the consumption and conservation of natural resources. The impact of population growth, industrialization, pollution, and urban and suburban expansion.

Politics and Citizenship

Colonial and revolutionary legacies, American political traditions, growth of democracy, and the role of African Americans in the development of the modern state. Defining citizenship. Struggles for civil rights.

Reform

Diverse movements focusing on a broad range of issues, including anti-slavery, education, labor, temperance, women's rights, civil rights, gay rights, war, public health, and government.

Religion

The variety of religious beliefs and practices in American from prehistory to the twenty-first century; influence of religion on politics, economics, and society.

Slavery and Its Legacies in North America

Systems of slave labor and other forms of unfree labor (e.g., indentured servitude, contract labor) in Native American societies, the Atlantic World, and the American South and West. The economics of slavery and its racial dimensions. Patterns of resistance and the long-term economic, political, and social effects of slavery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I have read the attached syllabus, including the classroom rules, course guidelines and homework and grading policy and have discussed it with my child

Student Name
(Please Print)

LAST

FIRST

GRADE

HOMEROOM

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT SIGNATURE