

2008-09  
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John F. Kennedy High School  
African American Studies  
Portia Morgan, Instructor

African American History is the study of the culture and history of people of African descent. This historical journey begins before the arrival of the first blacks in North America. We will study some of the culture, geographical features and history of the continent of Africa. We will examine how blacks who had been traded to the new world for food helped to transform this country socially, politically and economically. We will study the struggle for freedom equality and identity. We will consider other topics such as violence, political and institutional racism, the Great Migration, Harlem Renaissance and we will look at the current state of Black America.

Students will examine a variety of primary sources. Students will read novels and short stories to help them understand the time periods and issues studied. Music and films will be used to supplement the lectures and discussions. Students will write a reaction papers, do a power point presentation, oral history and write a term paper.

Materials:

*The African American Experience*, Stephen Middleton and Charlotte Stokes  
*Primary Sources in American History*, Roy Finkenbine  
*The Great Migration*, Joe William Trotter

Supplemental:

*Before the Mayflower*, Lerone Bennett  
*Harlem Speaks*, Cary Wintz  
*Slave Narratives*, Federal Writers project

Novels:

*Black Boy*, Richard Wright  
*Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Anne Moody  
*Our Nig*, Harriett Wilson  
*The Heroic Slave*, Fredrick Douglas  
*To be a Slave*, Julius Lester

Films:

Amistad  
Eyes on the Prize  
Eve  
Glory  
Long Walk Home  
Ms. Jane Pittman  
Promised Land  
Roots

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Uncle Toms Cabin

Grading:  
Test  
Papers  
Discussions  
Assignments