

2009-10
Portia Morgan
John F. Kennedy High School
Cleveland, Ohio

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

African American Studies is the study of the culture and history of people of African descent. This historical journey begins before the arrival of the first blacks to 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 good helped to transform this country socially, politically and economically. We will study the struggle for freedom, equality and identity; as well as consider other topics such as violence, political and institutional racism, the Great Migration, Harlem Renaissance and the current state of Black America.

Students will examine a variety of primary sources. They will read novels and short stories to help students understand the time period and issues discussed. Films, art and music will be used to supplement the lectures and discussions. Students will write reaction papers, do power point presentations, oral histories and write a research paper.

Materials:

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

Supplemental Materials:

Before the Mayflower, Lerone Bennett Jr.
Harlem Speaks, Cary Wintz
Slave Narratives, Federal Writers Project
The Negro in the 20th Century, John Hope Franklin
The Afro-American Traditions in Decorative Arts, Vlach

Readings:

Black Boy, Richard Wright
Coming of Age in Mississippi, Anne Moody
Our Nig, Harriett Wilson
To be a Slave, Julius Lester
You May Plow Here, Sara Brooks Narratives
Fences, August Wilson
Our America, LeAlan Jones & Lloyd Newman
Selected articles: Selections from *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World 1400-1680*
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narratives and Other Writing*

Harriet Jacobs, *Incident in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Films:

Amistad	Eyes on the Prize
Eve	Glory
Long Walk Home	Ms. Jane Pittman
Promised Land	Roots
Uncle Tom's Cabin	Freedom Song
Only the Ball Was White	A Time for Justice

Graded Items

Grading Scale

Test	90-100 =A
Papers	80-89=B
Discussion	70-79=C
Presentations	60-69=D
Daily assignments	Below 59=F
Research Paper	

Assignments:

- I. Reaction Papers (Due one Week after Completing the Book)
 - A. Our Nig..... October
 - B. You May Plow Here. December
 - C. Black Boy..... February
 - D. Coming of Age..... April
 - E. Our America..... May
- II. Research Paper first 25 cards due November
- III. Oral History..... January
- IV. Power point Presentation.... March
- V. Last set of research cards.... March
- VI. Research Paper..... May