

African American History
Mr. Austin
2011-2012
Room 213
Warrensville Heights High School

“If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated.”

- Carter G Woodson

Course Description:

This is an introductory course in the history of African Americans in the United States. Beginning with African civilizations, particularly, West African cultures that led to the vitality of the Atlantic world, a large part of that being the transatlantic slave trade. Topics will include the Middle Passage, life as a slave in the Low Country, slave resistance and revolt (The Stono Rebellion), and the growing storm over pro – and anti- slavery economic interests.

The second semester will trace the evolution of black culture amidst the horror and oppression of Jim Crow, seeking an identity and continuing the struggle for freedom and equality. Topics will include the tragedies and triumphs of Reconstruction, interracial violence, black political and institutional responses to racism and violence, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. Students will be confronted with conflicting bodies of evidence and challenged to analyze these issues and arrive a conclusions for themselves. Music and film will supplement classroom lectures and discussions.

Required Readings:

- **Textbook: Darlene Clark Hine, *The African American Odyssey, vol. II***
- **Textbook: Kenneth Kusmer, *Black Cleveland, The Making of a Black Ghetto, 1870-1930***
- **Julius Lester, *To Be A Slave***
- ***Three Great Novels, Frederick Douglass, Our Nig, Clotel***
- **Richard Wright, *Black Boy***
- **Kevin Baker, *Striver’s Row***
- **Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi***

- **Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice***
- **John McWhorter, *Losing the Race***

Evaluation:

1. Class/Home work 20%
2. Midterm examination 20%
3. Final examination 30%
4. Research Projects (2) 30%

Attendance: Each student is expected to attend class regularly and on time. Roll will be taken and more than three unexcused absences during the semester will result in the deduction of a full letter grade.

Rules for Class Discussion:

We will discuss many topics in class. There may be controversial topics, but this must be handled only through reason and respect of the position of others. No personal attacks of any kind or on anyone will be tolerated in class. Various points of view are most welcome.

You do not have to agree with any viewpoint expressed by anyone in class or even by the authors of various texts, but you are expected to offer an informed perspective at all times or raise questions that we all can discuss. You are also expected to refrain from chattering while others are participating in discussion or during lecture.

Research Papers:

There will be two projects in class- one per semester.

Semester 1: Harlem Renaissance Project:

Each student will choose a topic or person from the Harlem Renaissance era. They will research topic, write a 5-6 page paper and present to class (writing rubric will be made available to students)

Semester 2: Research Project Paper:

- **Students will choose a topic of research (upon teacher approval)**
- **Type a 10 page paper, including:**
 1. **Cover page (name, teacher, course, topic, date)**

2. MLA format
3. 12-font, Times Roman
4. Bibliography: 7-10 sources
 - *3 annotated (examples will be passed out in class)
5. Class Presentation in May/June

Late Work: All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments received after this point will be downgraded 10 points. Exceptions will be granted in cases of dire circumstances. Talk to me immediately about any circumstances that could affect an assignment. If you are having difficulty with an assignment seek help immediately. You cannot afford to procrastinate!

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated in any form on any assignment. If a student is caught plagiarizing or cheating, he/she will receive a failing grade on the assignment and may be subject to disciplinary action.

**KAP AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CONTENT TIMETABLE FOR
THE 2011-2012 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR**

<p>First Quarter: African civilizations to Stono Rebellion.</p> <p><u>Three Great Novels,</u></p> <p><u>To Be a Slave,</u></p>	<p>Second Quarter: Slave society to Civil War.</p> <p><u>From Emancipation to Freedom</u></p> <p>Semester Project Due.</p> <p>Midterm Exam</p>
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Third Quarter: From Reconstruction to the end of World War II.

Striver's Row

Poems by Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Countee Cullen

Richard Wright's Black Boy

Zora Neal Hurston

Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Fats Waller

Harlem Renaissance Project

Fourth Quarter: Emmett Till Murder to new millennium issues in the African American community.

Coming of Age in Mississippi

Soul on Ice

Losing the Race

Final Exam

Final Research Project