

**Contemporary African-American History Course Description**

The second half of the African American History class covers the time period from Emancipation to the present time. The course traces the evolution of black culture and identity and the continuing 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, Jazz, Blues, and the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. Students will be presented with a variety of primary and secondary sources materials; timely and careful reading of these sources will prepare students for class discussions. Students will be confronted with conflicting bodies of evidence and challenged to analyze these issues and arrive at conclusions for themselves. Music and film will supplement classroom lectures and discussions.

The ultimate goal of the class this year is for it to become a college level class as part of the KAP (Kenyon Academic Partnership) program. You will have the opportunity to earn college credit at the culmination of the course. We will be using a college textbook and will be reading novels, writing papers and other outside projects. Because you can earn college credit, my expectations are greater than a regular high school class.

**Required Readings**

- Textbook: Darlene Clark Hine, *The African American Odyssey*
- Anne Moody, *The Coming of Age in Mississippi*
- James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*
- Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice*
- various excerpts, articles, primary documents and handouts

**Evaluation**

1. Bellwork quizzes throughout the semester 5%
2. Class participation, discussion, notebooks 10%
3. Mid-Term examination 25%
4. Final Examination 40%
5. Research paper 20%

**Class Responsibilities**

It is your responsibility to come to class, pay attention and contribute. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to see a classmate or myself for any notes/work missed. You are expected to come to class prepared, meaning that you are to have the assignments read and prepared to discuss them in class.

**Research Paper**

You will be required to complete a double-spaced 7-10 page research paper. The paper is to be on any subject of your interest that we cover during the course, with my approval. Your paper must have a clear essential question, or thesis, that you will research using both primary and secondary sources. Your paper must be written in Times New Roman font no larger than 12pt.

**Course Schedule**

You will receive a detailed list of the assignments throughout the semester. The following is an outline of the chapters and the weeks in which they will be covered. This is subject to change.

**Week 1**

Ch. 12- The Meaning of Freedom: The Promise of reconstruction 1865-1868

**Week 2**

Ch. 13- The Meaning of Freedom: The Failure of Reconstruction

**Week 3**

Ch. 14- White Supremacy Triumphant: African-Americans in the South in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Week 4**

Ch. 15- Black Southerners Challenge White Supremacy

**Week 5/6**

Ch. 16- Conciliation, Agitation and Migration: African-Americans in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Week 7/8**

Ch. 17- African-Americans and the 1920s

**Week 9**

Ch. 18- The Great Depression and the New Deal

**Week 10**

Ch. 19- Black Culture and Society in the 1930s and 1940s

**Week 11**

Ch. 20- The World War II Era and the Seeds of a Revolution

**Week 12/13**

Ch. 21- The Freedom Movement 1954-1965

**Week 14-15**

Ch. 22- The Struggle Continues 1965-1980

**Week 16**

Ch. 23/24- Modern Black America 1980-2010

