

KAP African American History: From Slavery to the Oval Office

Course Description and Objectives

The KAP African American Studies course will attempt to take a glimpse into the Black experience in America through the lenses of Olaudah Equiano, W.E.B. DuBois, Eldridge Cleaver, Shelby Steele, and John McWhorter, and Darlene Clarke Hine. Each of these scholars have written about different aspect of the Black experience during different time periods in history. Equiano's story about slavery gives us a glimpse into the beginning of the Black experience in America, by examining slavery. DuBois' book examines the African American culture from the end of the slave period, through the turn of the 20th century through reconstruction. Eldridge Cleaver's writings give a look into the dusk of the Civil Rights movement, and the age of Revolutionary leadership. Shelby Steele and John McWhorter give us a modern day perspective on the diversity and challenges that face black people today!

The purpose of this course is to give you the student an opportunity to debunk myths, and critically examine what the Black Experience in America is. We must put away stereotypes, and typecast caricatures that the media perpetuates. We must examine the Black Experience.

Required Readings

- Textbook: Darlene Clark Hine, *The African American Odyssey*, vol. 1 to 1877
- Olaudah Equiano, *Life of Olaudah Equiano*
- W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
- Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice*
- Shelby Steele, *A dream Deferred; The Second Betrayal of Black Freedom in America*
- John McWhorter, *Losing the Race; Self-Sabotage in Black America*

Supplemental Readings

- Dr. Carter G. Woodson, *The Mis-Education of the Negro*
- Tom Burrell, *Brainwashed; Challenging the Myth of Black Inferiority*
- James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*.

Evaluation

1. Class participation and discussion and reading worksheets are worth 10-15 pts.
2. End of quarter assessment, end of Unit Assessments 40-50 pts.
3. Research paper 200 pts.
4. The total points earned will be divided by the total points possible to come up with your numeric grade.

Responsibilities

Each student is required to do the course readings, answer the questions about the readings, participate in class discussions, and display appropriate and positive behavior. The one rule in this course is respect.

This is a course intended to produce higher level thinking. Take this seriously.

Class Meetings

Students are expected to come to class on time. Our attendance policy is in accord with Columbus City Schools. Excessive tardiness and unexcused absences will have an adverse effect on your grade.

Research Paper

Each student is required to produce a double spaced, 7-10 page research paper, one per semester. Students may choose a topic from a list that is provided by the instructor. If you choose something that is not on the list, then it must be approved by the instructor. Papers must have a clear thesis, and utilize both primary and secondary sources. All sources should be cited using the MLA method, and the paper must conform under the MLA method. Students should acquire *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate Turbian. The finer details of the paper's requirement will be handed out in a separate sheet upon the introduction of the assignment.

Course Outline (Thematic Units)

August 24th First Day of School (present syllabus, obtain contact information)

Week 1- Chapters 2-4 Hines Text (Assign Equiano Reading)

Week 2- Chapter 8

Week 3 – Chapter 9 (Assign DuBois Readings)

Week 4- Chapter 11

Week 5- Chapter 12

Week 6- Chapter 13

Week 7- Chapter 14

Week 8- Chapter 15

Week 9- Instructor will assess progress of class