

## AP African American Course Description

AP African American Studies is an interdisciplinary course that examines the diversity of African American experiences through direct encounters with authentic and varied sources. Students explore key topics that extend from early African kingdoms to the ongoing challenges and achievements of today. By doing so, students will develop historical, literary, critical thinking, visual, and data analysis skills. The course focuses on the history and diversity of Black communities within the United States within the broader context of the African diaspora.

### Course Goals

Throughout this course, students will learn to:

- Apply lenses from multiple disciplines to evaluate key concepts, historical developments, and processes that have shaped black experiences and debates within the field of African American Studies.
- Identify connections between Black communities in the United States and the broader African diaspora in the past and present.
- Compare and analyze a range of perspectives about the movements, approaches, organizations, and key figures involved in freedom movements, as expressed in text-based, data, and visual sources.
- Demonstrate understanding of the diversity and complexity of African societies and their global connections before the emergence of transatlantic slavery.
- Evaluate the political, historical, aesthetic, and transnational contexts of major social movements.
- Develop a broad understanding of the many strategies African American communities have employed to represent themselves authentically, promote advancement, and combat the effects of inequality.
- Identify major themes that inform literary and artistic traditions of the African diaspora.

College Course equivalent: This course is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college course in African American Studies.

### Required Text:

*Freedom on My Mind* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 2021) by Deborah Gay White, Mia Bay, and Waldo Martin, Jr.  
The text will be supplied.

### Required Course Units:

Unit 1 – Origins of the African Diaspora  
Unit 2 - Enslavement, Resistance, and Freedom  
Unit 3 - The Practice of Freedom  
Unit 4 – Movements and Debates  
Unit 5 - Further Explorations  
Unit 6 - Student Research Strategies & Oral Defense

### \*\*\*\*Project Requirement\*\*\*\*:

Unlike other AP Social Studies courses, students will also define and execute a significant research project of their choice, drawn from topics or themes in the course, or from the broader field of African American studies as per College Board.

**End of Course Exam and PROJECT due in MAY**