

African American Studies Syllabus

Mr. Szydlowski- gszydlowski@mauryk12.org

Room #1078

Ext. 1003

2023-2024 School Year

Course Overview:

The African American experience is a broad and deep subject. The study of that experience will be examined, beginning in Africa, the birthplace of civilization and will extend to the history of blacks in America. It is impossible to capture each element of the journey, but our analysis will be an interdisciplinary approach to explore some of the political, cultural, economic, artistic and social themes that illustrate the influence of the construction of African American realities in the past and present. Class sessions will be composed of lectures, discussions, exercises, film screenings, media and textual analysis in an online format.

Expectations:

- Expect to be respected and to display respect for others.
- Expect to be challenged.
- Expect to read, write, and think.
- Expect to be an active participant in class.
- Expect to be on time for class and to turn in work on time.
- Expect all CHS guidelines and regulations – including the plagiarism/cheating policy – to be strictly enforced (CHS student handbook for details).

Units of Study

- Ancient African Empires
- Slavery in the Colonies
- U.S. Civil War & Reconstruction
- Industrialization & Urbanization
- The Harlem Renaissance
- Great Depression and World Wars
- Civil Rights Movement and Beyond

Standards:

For a complete list of standards covered in this and other social studies classes at the high school level see the following website.

https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/standards/kyacadstand/Documents/Kentucky_Academic_Standards_for_Social_Studies_2019.pdf

Class Preparation & Materials Needed:

- 1 writer's notebook, 1 three-ring binder
- Loose leaf paper
- Pens, pencils, highlighters, and colored pencils
- Print out various assignments to turn in to Mr. Szydlowski

Resources:

- Supplemental texts provided by Mr. Szydlowski
- The Harlem Hellfighters: When Pride Met Courage, Buffalo Soldiers: The Colored Regulars in the United States Army, ect.
- Video clips and documentaries from Discovery Education, Video resources from the CHS library, various national news outlets, and other reputable sources. Segments or full movie of *State of Jones*, *Glory-Civil War Movie*, *Red Tails*, *Amistad*, *The Help*, *Harriet Tubman*, *Amazing Grace*, *12 Years a Slave*, *Hidden Figures*, *NWA Straight Out of Compton*, *Selma*, *The Butler*, *Glory Road*, *Emancipation*, *Coach Carter*, *Remember the Titans*, *Greenbook*, *Detroit*, *Thurgood Marshall*, *Emmet Till*, *Pursuit of Happiness*, ect.

Assessment

- Students are responsible for turning in work on time to receive full-credit. Late assignments will receive little to no credit.
- 100% of student's final grade will be based on points earned for his/her unit exams, mid-term exam, quizzes, projects, papers, classwork, and homework. 15% of student's final grade will be based on his/her challenge exam score.
- Tests-40%, Classwork/Homework-30%, Quizzes/Projects-15%, Final-15%
- Course grading scale (per district requirements): A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79
- D=60-69 F=0-69
- Homework and classwork may or may not be collected.
- Plagiarized work will earn a grade of zero for all participants involved with plagiarism.
- Students who submit online assignment without a typed name will earn a grade of zero.
- Student grades will be posted in a timely fashion on Synergy.

Make Up Work

- Following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to visit the assignment folder in the classroom or speaking with their study buddy for all missed assignments.
- The Google Classroom site contains detailed information for many assignments and Remind texts will be sent regularly. There are NO EXCUSES for being unaware or unprepared.
- Per CHS US History department's policy make up is due three days following the absence. If an assignment has been collected, graded, and returned to the class, the specific student's missing assignment will earn a grade of zero.
- Missed quizzes or exams will be made up during class time the day the absent student returns to class.

Policies and Procedures

- With Chrome books to use in the classroom, there is no need for additional cellular/electronic devices.
- There is a "Double O" cell phone and electronic device policy in Mr. Szydlowski's classroom (1078 or other class meeting areas). All cell phones, earbuds, or any other electronic devices must be turned OFF and stored OUT OF SITE (in a backpack, purse, etc.) from bell to bell (tardy bell that starts class to dismissal bell).
- **Students with any visible cell phone, earbuds, or other electronic device will incur the first, second, and third office referral system outlined in the CHS Student Handbook.**
- If at any time you are charging your phone in my classroom and we are not using technology, the cellular device needs to be out of sight.
- Students are required to read, sign, return, and follow a Classroom Technology Agreement.
- Students will be allowed limited bathroom passes during instructional class time. If there are medical issues that require excessive bathroom visits, please alert Mr. Szydlowski via e-mail or a doctor's note.

Contacting Mr. Szydlowski

- I am available to help any student...all you (students and/or parents) need to do is ask.
- There is tutoring provided on a weekly basis at CHS on Tuesday and Thursdays. Bus transportation is provided as well.
- I am happy to meet with any parent/guardian regarding student progress and performance. As all conferences will include an CHS Counselor if needed, please e-mail both your child's CHS counselor and me to set up any conferences.
- The easiest way to reach me via e-mail at gszydlowski@mauryk12.org.
- Students will sign up

Covid-19 Expectations or (any other sickness)

- Please be conscious of others space
- If you are sick let me or another teacher know, and we will get you the proper help
- The students will have the availability to sanitize in the classroom
- It takes a village to be successful and we will do our best to work together.

Remote Expectations (If we were to go remote)

- Be present and on time. It is imperative that you remote in and listen to the teaching. It is not okay to remote in and then go back to bed or back to work. You must stay logged in for the entire remote class.
- When we go back to traditional, I will be teaching my remote students the same time I am teaching my traditional students.
- Participation is expected.
- Assignments are to be done in a timely manner.
- Respect is a two-way street. While the teacher is teaching you are paying attention, focused, and ready to participate. While I will be ready to answer any questions you may have for me about the material that has been taught.
- It is going to be different, but we all can work together to make our remote learning fun. Let's GOOOOO!

African American History Syllabus Agreement Form

I have read and understand the information contained within the SDC American History syllabus. I agree to adhere to the expectations and terms of the syllabus.

Student Name Printed:

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name Printed:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian E-mail Addresses: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Numbers: _____

