



Topics in African American Studies

Grade Level: 12

Semester Elective: ½ Credit

A one-semester senior elective, Topics in African American Studies is course in critical reading and writing with an emphasis on the African American experience and influence on American history and culture. Topics include African kingdoms, pre and post Civil War issues, the Harlem Renaissance, civil rights and social justice, and African American contributions to American culture as a whole. Students will apply critical close-reading strategies and write literary analyses that require research.

How is the course structured?

Course Components

- Reading Fiction and Non-Fiction Texts, Discussion, Annotating Texts for Central Idea, Analysis and Evaluation, Research, Language Interpretation and Analysis, Writing Analysis, Narrative, and Argument Essays , Presentations

Course Grade Based On:

- Participation in Discussion, Individual and Small Group Activities, Daily Writing and Note-Taking, Projects, Research, Essay Writing, Reading Response Assignments

What can I expect?

Course Workload:

- Active participation in class is necessary for success. Homework is given throughout the unit, and can be partly done in class. All work is presented on weekly activity lists, in advance, and students are encouraged to manage their time productively in class and out.

Homework Frequency:

- 2-3 times per week

Type of Homework:

- Reading and Annotating, Responses for Close Reading, Outlining, Drafting, and Revision of Writing

Major Projects:

- Narrative Essay, Key Figures in African American History Research Project and Presentation, Independent Author Study

Text Titles May Include:

- Various models of effective creative writing authored by diverse writers and voices.