

# Westside High School

## SY 2024-2025 AP African American Studies Syllabus

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**Tutorials: Tuesdays 2nd half of lunch and Thursdays afterschool**

### **Course Description:**

AP African American Studies is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college or university course in African American Studies and related courses, including Africana Studies, Black Studies, and African Diaspora Studies. 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 the contemporary moment. Students will be expected to engage with the rigorous demands of the course and use the resources that will be shared to provide students the support needed to learn the key concepts.

### **AP Exam Details:**

**Exam Date: 5/8/2025**

The AP African American Studies Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. The end of course exam is 90 minutes long and includes 60 multiple-choice questions, 3 free-response questions and 1 document based question. In addition to the end of course exam, the course includes a project that students will submit prior to the end of May. The project score and the exam score are combined to generate an AP score of 1–5 for college credit and placement. The details of the exam can be found below:

Section	Type of Questions	Number of Questions	Exam Weighting	Time
I	Multiple-Choice Questions	60	60%	70 minutes
II	Short-Answer Questions	3	18%	40 minutes (suggested)
	Document-Based Question	1	12%	45 minutes (suggested)
	Individual Student Project: Exam Day Validation Question	1	10%	5 minutes (suggested)
Individual Student Project: Teacher-Scored Component		Recommended minimum of 15 instructional hours (15 class periods or 3 instructional weeks)		

## **Course Project:**

Students will have the wonderful opportunity to engage in an evidence based extended writing project that will allow them to self-select a topic, sources, and create a defensible thesis to a prompt. Throughout the first three units, students will have access to prepare for the project before the due date, **May 23, 2023**.

## **Student Expectations:**

- Teachers will be available for students and do their best to reach out. Students are encouraged to reach out when they need help. Whether they need academic support or emotional support teachers will help as much as they can and if not will connect students to those who can help.
- Work should be submitted on time whenever possible. But, if work is going to be late, do your best to let your teacher know and to discuss with them the best way for you as a student to continue to do current work and make up for old work. What work will and will not count towards a grade should be discussed between the student and the teacher as especially in digital learning extenuating circumstances can be very common when it comes to completing work on time.
- These classes are safe and respectful spaces. Be kind, respectful and understanding but also push back and disagree. Allow the community to grow and learn from each other, have an open mind but remain grounded in the ideals of human rights, kindness and understanding.
- Everyone's voice matters so let everyone's voice be heard how they wish to express it.
- Academic Honesty, ALL work handed in should be YOUR ORIGINAL WORK.

## **Primary Materials:**

- Laptop & charger
- 3-Ring 3 ring Binder
- Writing utensils (pens, pencils, highlighters)

## **Grading:**

For the course major assignments are weighted at 70% and minors are 30%. Students may receive college credit upon passing the course and test at the college's discretion. Grading will be focused on overall understanding, completion, and accuracy. All assignments and assessments will have a specific due date. If you are absent and it is excused, you will have two school days to complete the tasks. If you are absent and it is unexcused, you will have one school day to submit the assignment. It is my discretion to give an alternative assignment to makeup work. A retake must be completed within one week of the original test grade being posted in PowerSchool. Retakes are for major grades of 70 and below only. Students with absences still have the opportunity to have a retake once they make-up exam. Retakes are not allowed for final exams.

- **Content Knowledge:**
  - Unit assessments, FRQs, quizzes, discussions, vocabulary tests, weekly chapter assignments
- **Extended Assignments:**
  - Reading and Research; practice open responses, Smithsonian learning lab
- **Classwork Assignments:**
  - Formal and in-formal discussion participation
  - Arrival to online class on time; completing independent work tasks on time.