



AP African American Studies

OFFERING A RICH AND INSPIRING INTRODUCTION
TO AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE



The Course

AP[®] African American Studies is an exciting, interdisciplinary course that draws from a variety of fields—history, literature, the arts, geography, science, and law—to explore the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans.

In AP African American Studies, students explore key topics that extend from early African kingdoms to the ongoing challenges and achievements of the contemporary moment. Given the interdisciplinary

character of African American Studies, students in the course will develop skills across multiple fields, with an emphasis on developing historical, literary, visual and data analysis skills. This course foregrounds a study of the diversity of Black communities in the United States within the broader context of Africa and the African diaspora.

The course provides students with a strong foundation in facts and evidence about African American history and culture, offering an immersive survey course that is not currently available in most American high schools.

How It Was Created

The AP Program has worked alongside colleges, universities, and secondary schools to develop a rigorous introduction to African American Studies. This course will be the most comprehensive, cohesive immersion in the discipline that high school students have ever had. It has been developed by a committee of leading scholars in the field of African American Studies.

TIMELINE

- **2022-23:** Initial pilot at 60 pilot schools across the country.
- **2023-24:** Pilot expands to nearly 700 schools in the United States. Pilot students take the first AP African American Studies Exam in spring of 2024.
- **2024-25:** Schools can begin offering AP African American Studies.
- **Spring 2025:** AP African American Studies Exam available to all students in the United States.



What will students experience in AP African American Studies?

The AP African American Studies course framework is organized both chronologically and thematically. Beginning in ancestral Africa and progressing through Afrofuturism, students will explore:

- the origins of the African diaspora
- freedom, enslavement, and resistance
- the practice of freedom
- movements and debates

Like all AP courses, AP African American Studies encourages students to examine different themes from a variety of perspectives, in line with the field's tradition of rigorous debate.

The course brings together these subjects in a comprehensive and holistic way, comparable to the experience of a first-year college student in an African American Studies survey course.

Credit and Placement

More than 200 colleges and universities nationally have initially signed on to provide college credit. Early credit support for the pilot course has surpassed expectations, and it's our strong expectation that many more colleges will provide credit when the final course reviews are completed in the spring of 2024.

Research consistently shows students who take AP courses are more likely to take additional related coursework in college and to major or minor in that discipline. We expect AP African American Studies to have a positive impact on college course enrollments within the field by introducing thousands of high school students to the discipline.

Inviting High School Students to the Course

The AP Program encourages schools to make this course broadly available to all interested students.

Pilot teachers have already reported success in welcoming students who never considered AP before the introduction of this course.

“The class is so unlike any other AP course in the way that it’s inclusive, educational, and welcoming to students of any educational level.”

— STUDENT RESPONDENT, 2023

For the most up-to-date information about the course, visit cb.org/APAfAmStudies