



JOIN US

Faculty Involvement in AP African American Studies



AP® African American Studies is an introductory college-level course for high school students. A landmark course in Black history and culture, it examines the experiences of diverse Black communities in the United States within the context of the broader African diaspora. Topics range from early African kingdoms to the challenges and achievements of the present. Through direct encounters with primary sources, students develop skills in historical, literary, visual, and data analysis as they explore the wide-ranging contributions of people of African descent.

Course development has relied on subject matter experts from colleges and universities across the country, and the AP Program will continue to partner with faculty in the discipline as it pilots and launches this course.

Research Summary Underpinning this Course

The AP Program has relied on faculty input as the course has been piloted. This input includes:

- An analysis of over 100 college course syllabi for introductory African American Studies courses to search for commonalities in learning outcomes, organization, and texts.
- Small-group academic conversations with over 100 faculty members to socialize course framework directions.
- Faculty surveys to confirm key decision points in course development.
- Advisory boards and writing teams of subject-matter experts to harness research insights into course design.
- A symposium with about 200 faculty to discuss draft course content.



COLLEGE COURSE EQUIVALENT

AP African American Studies is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory course in African American Studies, African Diaspora Studies, and Black Studies. At some institutions, the course may also fulfill other requirements such as social and behavioral sciences, arts and humanities, history, or ethnic studies.

This research helped produce a course that will give students opportunities 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 U.S. 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.



How to Get Involved

Higher education professionals play a key role. They develop all AP courses and exams, set credit and placement policies, and score student work. Please see below for ways to be involved in supporting this course. Or go to aphighered.org for information on topics such as recruitment and admission or advising and placement.

1. **Discuss this course with colleagues at your institution.** Review the existing course materials. Have conversations with your colleagues about supporting the launch of the course by deciding on an award for credit, advanced placement, or both. Consider how success in this AP course might prepare students for additional coursework in the discipline as well as success in college. Let us know when a credit or placement award has been made by emailing us at aphighered@collegeboard.org.
2. **Serve on the AP African American Studies Development Committee.** Ensure that the AP African American Studies course and exam meet the expectations of higher education institutions offering the comparable college course. Let us know you're interested by contacting us at aphighered@collegeboard.org.
3. **Become an AP Reader.** Participate in the annual AP Reading—the largest K–16 educational collaboration in the world—to score the free-response portion of AP African American Studies Exam. Opportunities exist to score on-site, as well as from your home or office. Learn more about becoming an AP reader by visiting aphighered.org.



KEY DATES

This new course was piloted in approximately 60 classrooms across the country in the 2022-23 academic year. This second year of the pilot will reach nearly 700 classrooms and approximately 13,000 students nationwide. The final course framework, released in fall of 2023, is based on additional lessons learned from the pilot. This framework will be used in the national launch of the course in fall of 2024. International offerings of AP African American Studies will begin in the fall of 2025.

4. **Become an AP Item Writer.** Contribute to the development and review of both the formative questions AP provides teachers for use in class throughout the year and the summative questions that are used on AP Exams. Let us know you're interested by contacting us at aphighered@collegeboard.org for more information.
5. **Become an AP Course Audit Reviewer.** Help ensure that AP courses meet the same college-level criteria across high schools by reviewing the syllabi AP teachers submit for course authorization. Let us know you're interested by completing this form. Or email us at: aphighered@collegeboard.org
6. **Serve on Short-Term Advisory Boards.** Advise the AP Program on current directions in your discipline and on college-level expectations for students in your field. To learn more about this, email us at aphighered@collegeboard.org with a copy of your curriculum vitae.
7. **Become an AP Consultant.** Train teachers at annual summer professional learning events on the expectations higher education has for their students. Give valuable insights and perspectives. To apply, visit: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/professional-learning/workshop-consultant>

For questions or more information, contact us at:
aphighered@collegeboard.org