African-American Studies Syllabus
2011-2012

Instructors:  Mrs. Linda Aarons
             Mr. Denis Jackson

The African American Studies course at Charles Herbert Flowers High School is designed to provide students with a comprehensive overview of the African American experience beginning with Africa through modern times. The course will, in six units, address the introduction of Africans to the Americas, enslavement, emancipation, and the social and political challenges and triumphs that followed. In addition, the course will highlight the social, cultural and political contributions of African Americans to American society.

Utilizing the Maryland State Department of Educations’ content standards for Social Studies as a framework for instruction, the focal point of the class will be to develop a student’s understanding and appreciation of African American history. In addition to the history standard, coursework will also focus on geography, economics, political science, and increasing student understanding of the peoples of the world and nations.

The following factors will be utilized in determining student grades for this course:

- **Assessment/Special Projects - 50%
- **Class work - 25%
- **Homework - 25%

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Attendance is an integral requirement of the African American Studies course. Each class is 85 minutes in length and therefore, students miss significant amounts of work when absent from class. Teachers are required to give make up work and tests only to students with excused absences. Students are required to provide evidence of an excused absence upon their return to class and request missed assignments. Make up work should be completed and returned in a timely manner. Students will be given a deadline to return make up work in order to receive credit for their assignments.

Students are expected to follow the Code of Student Conduct for Prince George’s County Public Schools and the policies of Charles Herbert Flowers High School at all times.

PREPARATION, CLASS WORK AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

All students are expected to actively participate in classroom activities. Additionally, students are expected to come to class on time, prepared with their notebook, CHFHS agenda book, and pens (black or blue ink). There will be periodic notebook and agenda book checks. Class work will include assigned readings, writing activities and special projects. All assignments are required to be completed in ink or typed according to guidelines, and should reflect the student’s best performance. Also, all assignments should be neat, accurate, complete, and handed in on time. Some class work will require oral presentations to aid in the development of student public speaking skills.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be assigned daily to help students prepare for their next class, as well as, reinforce skills taught in class. Students will be required to read their textbook for homework
and take notes on each chapter. Homework is due at the beginning of the next class session. Late homework is not accepted unless a student has an excused absence from class. Unexcused tardiness by students is also cause for assignments not to be accepted.

**ASSESSMENTS**

Students are expected to give their best performance on weekly classroom tests. In order to be successful in the African American Studies course, students must do their homework assignments and take notes. Also, students should review classroom notes nightly in preparation for upcoming classroom assessments.

Students will be given a variety of special projects to complete during the course. During this semester course, many projects will require students to read and do research outside of the classroom in order to complete them as directed. Many projects will need to be typed. Required books may be purchased, borrowed from the public library, or the C.H. Flowers Media Center. All students are expected to have their own public library card.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

Students will read a variety of informational text and literature during the semester. Topics to be covered in the course will include the following.

- Introduction to African American Studies
- Africa
- Becoming African American
- Slavery and the Quest for Freedom
- The Civil War, Emancipation, and Black Reconstruction
- Freedom Without Equality
- The Civil Rights Movement
- The Black Revolution

**MATERIALS** – (to be brought to class daily) An 1½ -2 inch binder, dividers, college ruled notebook paper, blue/black ink pens, C.H. Flowers agenda book, colored pencils. (Home materials for homework completion) textbook -African-American History (damaged/lost textbooks are $59.97 or current publisher price)

**Divided sections of student notebook** are as follows: Warm Ups. Homework, Class Work, Textbook Notes and Special Projects

**Teacher Contact Information:**

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I have read and understand the information provided in this syllabus policy.