**African-American History** • **Spring 2016** • **E.A. Laney High School**

**Mr. Jack E. Fryar, Jr.**

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**Course Description**

African-American History at the high school level introduces students to the role that African-Americans have played in our national history as integral contributors to every episode of our American past. Through study of African-American history, students should come away with a better understanding of how we are all interlinked in the American tapestry, and that black history is, in fact, United States history in every sense of the term.

 **Assignments and Grading** • **You must complete ALL assignments to pass the course.** Your final grade will be determined by:

• Participation • Class work • Homework

• Frequent Quizzes/Puzzles • Unit Tests

 **Attendance, Reading, and Participation:** Attendance of all classes is expected, as well as on time completion of all readings. Readings will be provided for you, usually as printed handouts. These assignments will be accompanied by one or two short, direct questions that I will expect you to have an answer for when we meet for class. I expect you to have completed all readings for a class by the time class meets. Needless to say, I expect you to not merely show up but to actively participate in these discussions with regular, thoughtful contributions.

**Weekly Quizzes and Unit Tests:** You will be quizzed in some manner just about every week to assess how well you have absorbed the things we talked about over the previous days. Q**uizzes** will usually consist of some multiple-choice answers, some matching, and at least one short answer question. Alternatively, you may be graded on the completion of **crossword puzzles** for material/vocabulary covered in class instead of a quiz (but you will not be graded on both a quiz and puzzle during the same week). **Unit tests** will happen after we have covered all of the material for a given unit of learning.

**General Policies**

**Attendance Policy:** I expect you to attend every class. **For guidance on what is or is not an excused absence, refer to the E.A. Laney High School website or in the Student Handbook**. I understand that emergencies and unexpected problems happen. In that case, please communicate with me and we will work together on a reasonable solution. ***But please understand your success depends on your being in class***

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating will turn out bad for you. I expect you to be honorable, honest, and trustworthy.  All your work for this class must be your own, or must clearly indicate and properly cite your reliance on outside material. This includes websites, Cliff notes, etc.  I take cheating very seriously and I will catch you: a simple Google search can tell me if you have cheated. If you have any questions about this policy or are unclear about proper citation strategies and how to cite, get in touch with me.

**Electronics Policy:** As for cell phones: please turn them off while in class and don’t even think about texting. If the use of your phone or other electronic devices becomes distracting – that means for me, your classmates, or if I judge that it prevents you from focusing on what we are doing in class – I will confiscate your phone and you can claim it from the front office at the end of the day. If I catch you looking up test or quiz answers on your phones, you will also face phone confiscation, and receive a failing grade for that test or quiz.

**Classroom Behavior:** You are all young adults, and I expect you to comport yourself in a way that your parents would be proud of. You should come to class ready to work, to improve yourself by learning more about the world we live in, and by becoming a better-rounded person. *If you are disruptive in class, you will not be allowed to stay in class.* Sooner or later all of us have to choose the kind of person we will be in this life. **Things like duty, honor, honesty, and being as good as your word matter. I hope you choose well what kind of person you will be…**

***…And Let’s Have Some Fun In Class While We’re At It!***

 **ATTENTION!**

**This syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for keeping track of announcements and assignments given in class.**

**Week 1:**

**What is African-American History?**, Africa: Birthplace of Humanity, East African Civilizations, West African Civilizations, African Life/Society

**Week 2:**

**The Middle Passage:** European Exploration/Colonization, From Capture to Destination, Slavery in the West Indies, “Amazing Grace” & the End of the Slave Trade by Great Britain

**Week 3:**

**\*\*Unit Test\*\***

**Blacks in Colonial North America:** European Slavery, Race & Origins of African Slavery, Plantation Slavery, Origins of African-American Culture, Slavery Outside the South

**Week 4:**

Resistance & Rebellion, **\*\*Unit Test\*\***

**Revolutionary War & Early Republic:** African-Americans in the Declaration of Independence Debate, Black Intellectuals, Black Loyalists & Patriots, Lord Dunmore’s Proclamation, **The Early Republic:** Revolution & Emancipation, Constitutional Convention of 1787

**Week 5:**

The Emergence of Free Black Communities, Early Black Leaders, Slave Uprisings, **\*\*Unit Test\*\*, Expansion of Slavery:** Missouri Compromise, White & Black Slave Ownership, Slave Labor, The Domestic Slave Trade

**Week 6:**

Slave Family Life, Surviving Slavery, Limits of Freedom: Black Laws, African-American Institutions, Free African-Americans, **\*\*Unit Test\*\***

**Week 7:**

The Second Great Awakening, The Anti-Slavery Movement, Black Abolitionists, Violence, Black Institutions, The Campaign to Change Minds, Rising Militancy, *Amistad* Movie

**Week 8:**

*Amistad* (cont’d), Resistance & Nationalism, **\*\*Unit Test\*\***

**1846-1865:** Free Labor vs. Slave Labor, Fugitive Slave Act, Deepening Slave Crisis, the Civil War.

**\*\*\*The final eight weeks will be forthcoming after an assessment of how well we’ve done and where we are at in the curriculum at the end of the first eight weeks\*\*\***