



Overview of Courses

1) African American Power in the US

This course is designed to explore how through resistance to enslavement, and the journey to power, African-Americans contributed to the intellectual, cultural, economic and moral development of American society. The course will follow African American history from the shores of West Africa and the kingdoms many of them left behind, through the middle passage onward through the fight for emancipation, dignity and the continued battle for justice. The course will offer critical insights on how cultural dynamics within a nation inadvertently contribute to the overall development of a young society. The course will also analyze how every milestone or development of one cultural group effects the trajectory and opportunity of another.

Oftentimes in US History courses, African American history is designated to a chapter or two on slavery and then the civil rights movement. African American history is intellectually richer and offers much more to the understanding and analysis of how America has become the nation it is today. This history deserves at minimum a complete year during the American educational experience to explore the intersection between African Americans struggle for power and the formation of the United States of America.

2) World's Great Men & Women of Color

This course looks at world history through the lens of individuals. It is historically evident that certain people have come along and changed the course of humanity by the sheer force of their courage, compassion, intellect, ambition or even desire for revenge. Students in this course understand how specific men and women of color, beginning in Ancient Egypt, have shaped the history and future of the world. Students understand and can articulate the correlation between ideas launched in antiquity and concepts societies stands on in the 21st century. Students are challenged to envision the world without these individuals and what might have been. By studying the biography of individuals students learn the history, culture and politics of the land the historical figures came from.

The emphasis on men and women of color is by design to highlight for all students the contributions made by figures unknown to them. In the formation of mainstream world history courses little light is shown on these important individuals for various reasons. Yet many scholarly and respected historians have lifted up the contributions of these historical men and women who have the potential to enlighten and inspire all children.

The key assignments in this course were designed to not only align with common core, but also with the latest in educational research. Assignment must emphasize more than historical dates and figures, but how those dates are actual 'sign posts' that mark historical progression. Students must synthesize the historical information they learn with what they understand today. In this course history is not a thing of the past but indeed a living lineage that must be understood. Analysis and critical thinking, and creative solution oriented skills are used most often for key assignments.

3) Mastering Our Cultural Identity

Mastering Our Cultural Identity: African American Male Image sits at the intersection of contemporary youth culture and media, historical data and the latest research in psychology and positive thinking. The course supports students as they explore the concept of cultural identity options, learn how successful individuals have managed their emotions and channeled their personal will to develop a positive sense of purpose in their roles in family and community.

Cultural identity is a key point of intervention for African American boys and young men, and Mastering Our Cultural Identity: African American Male Image focuses on creating opportunities that allow our students to make conscious, positive identity choices, thus better supporting academic trajectories, school engagement, and college and industry preparation for success during and after high school.

4) Revolutionary Literature

Revolutionary Literature draws on contemporary and historical literary and non-literary writings as students explore, analyze, discuss and write about the internal struggle with cultural identity that African Americans face. Students specifically explore how African-American men resist stereotypes in the United States and how to create their own identity, develop personal will and build their future. Students also learn through selected narratives how African-American men have managed their

emotions and harnessed their personal will power to achieve their goals through reading, writing, and spoken word.