



Anne Arundel County Public Schools Board Executive Summary Form

Category: Academic and Strategic Initiatives – Curriculum and Instruction

Submitted By: *Eve Case, Coordinator of Social Studies*
Reviewed & Endorsed By: Grading & Transcript Committee
Approved By: Nicole Howard, Director of Curriculum and Assessments

Date: *November 1, 2023*

Course Name: AP African American Studies

Course Description:

AP African American Studies is an interdisciplinary course that examines the diversity of African American experiences through direct encounters with authentic and varied sources. 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 covers a study of the diversity of Black communities in the United States within the broader context of Africa and the African diaspora.

Needs Assessment:

This course provides more depth and breadth to the current African American studies program in Anne Arundel County. Currently students engage in studying African American history as a vital component of American history in U.S. History courses offered at grades 4, 5, 8, and 9. The current African American History Course provides a more streamlined focus but due to the rich nature of this historical investigation, there is not enough time in one semester to adequately teach the breadth of content and associated historical thinking skills.

The course supports the following AACPS Strategic Plan's Driving Values:

The main goal of AACPS Strategic Plan is to ensure that every student meets or exceeds standards as achievement gaps are eliminated. This course would provide a lens of American History that would strive to meet those goals while developing student skills aligned with college and career readiness.

Course Duration: High School (Full Year, 1 Credit), beginning in the 2024-2025 School Year