

**BROCKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BROCKTON HIGH SCHOOL  
SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

**Grade 12: African American History**

This is a one semester senior elective designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the history of African Americans. Students will explore questions relating to the experiences of people of African descent, contributions of African Americans in the development of the nation, and the evolution of African American culture.

In addition to the content presented in the course, emphasis will be placed on students' skill development in the literacy areas of reading, writing, speaking and reasoning. The requirements of the course have been written to reflect high expectations of student achievement in reading, writing, speaking, and reasoning.

The student's proficiency will be assessed through a variety of assessment tools which may include: quizzes; notes from readings/discussions/research; multiple choice tests; open response writing; graded discussions; oral and/or visual presentations, both individual and group; primary source analysis; debates; cooperative learning; writing and editing of essays; critiques of historical media; creative writing including poems, song lyrics, newspapers, children's books, and political cartoons; general research; journal writing; daily homework; interviews and/or surveys; departmental final exam.

**Participation in National History Day is encouraged for all students in grades 9-12. Information is distributed in October or is available in the Red Social Science office.**

**CORE KNOWLEDGE**

**AFRICA**

- Physical and political geography
- Early civilizations
- Black kings and queens
- West African Empires
- African cultures and traditions

**SLAVERY: AFRICA, EUROPE, THE AMERICAS**

- European colonization of the Americas
- Portuguese slave trade
- African participation and resistance
- Surviving the Middle Passage
- Slavery in the West Indies and Latin America
- Africans in the thirteen colonies

**FROM REVOLUTION TO CIVIL WAR**

- Blacks in the Revolutionary War
- Declaration of Independence
- The Constitution: Three-fifths Compromise
- Slave life and culture
- Resistance and insurrection
- Abolitionists and antislavery efforts
- Escaping from slavery
- Blacks in the Civil War

## **RECONSTRUCTION AND JIM CROW**

- Accomplishments
- Failures
- Migration north and west
- Segregation laws
- Advances in education, art and science

## **PROTEST AND HOPE IN THE 20TH CENTURY**

- Early Civil Rights: Leaders and struggles
- Harlem Renaissance
- The Great Depression and the New Deal

## **CIVIL RIGHTS REVOLUTION**

- African Americans in W.W.11
- Challenging segregation policies
- Civil Rights: Leaders and Organizations
- Black Nationalism

## **CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

- African Americans in: Education religion, politics, medicine, the arts and sports
- African American communities

## **Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework Learning Standards addressed:**

- Africa
- Egypt: An Ancient River Civilization, c.3000-1200 BC/BCE
- African History to 1800
- The Origins of European Western Expansion and the Civilizations of Central and South America
- Economic Growth in the North and South, 1800-1860
- The Political and Intellectual Origins of the American Nation: the Revolution and the Constitution, 1763-1789
- The Civil War and Reconstruction, 1860-1877
- Social, Political and Religious Change, 1800-1860
- Political Democratization, Westward Expansion, and Diplomatic Developments, 1790-1860
- The Age of Reform: Progressivism and the New Deal, 1900-1940
- World War II, 1939-1945
- Cold War America at Home: Economic Growth and Optimism, Anticommunism, and Reform, 1945-1980

**MF/lm**  
**05/19/06**