

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**HIST-226**  
**History of the African American Experience**  
3 semester hours

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description:**

This course will examine the African American experience in the United States from slavery to the present era. The student will study the chronology of black history, the African heritage, the crucible of slavery, the struggle for equality, Pan Africanism, and the development and evolution of the African American community. Special attention will be given to African American personages and their contributions to American society. The evolution of contemporary race relationships will be evaluated. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

**Overall Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain and evaluate the need for and the significance of African American History.
2. Describe and evaluate the nature of the West African civilizations that existed prior to the arrival of Europeans.
3. Identify and give the significance of the following terms: afrocentrism, eurocentrism, ethnocentrism, Hamitic Hypothesis, racism, pseudo-scientific racism, slavery, and stereotyping.
4. Describe the exchanges that took place between Africa, North America, and Europe as a result of the European Age of Exploration.
5. Analyze the economic, demographic and cultural consequences of the Atlantic Slave Trade to Africa and North America.
6. Examine and evaluate the evolution of indentured servitude to slavery for Africans in early colonial North America.
7. Analyze the role that African Americans played in the American Revolution.
8. Assess the place of African Americans, slave and free, in the new republic and explain the development of racial theories.
9. Describe the conditions under which both slaves and free blacks lived in the United States.
10. Explain the emergence of a distinctive African-American culture and the response of southern blacks to their social environment and describe how both slave and free blacks helped to shape southern values.
11. Assess the institution of slavery as a sectional issue in the nineteenth century.
12. Explain the role that the institution of slavery played in the coming of the Civil War.
13. Assess the role that African Americans played in the Civil War.
14. Describe the social and political experiences of African Americans in the South during Reconstruction.
15. Analyze the impact of sharecropping, tenant farming and the crop lien system on black agricultural workers in the South.

16. Compare and contrast the philosophies and ideas of Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois and Marcus Garvey as early 20th century African American leaders.
17. Evaluate the role of African Americans in World War I and World War II.
18. Explain the development of the civil rights movement in post World War II America.
19. Identify specific African American leaders and evaluate the role that they played in the civil rights movement..
20. Demonstrate active listening skills by objectively restating, in his/her own words, material which has been verbally transmitted.
21. Demonstrate the physical ability to speak effectively so that the receiver(s) can understand. This will include diction, pronunciation, enunciation, pace, pitch, and volume.
22. Communicate an abstract or concrete idea so that the receiver(s) clearly perceives the intended message.
23. Effectively deliver a formal oral presentation in front of a group.
24. Demonstrate the ability to communicate using appropriate language.

### **Major Topics**

- I. African Society before European contact
- II. Slavery in Latin America
- III. Africans in the English colonies
- IV. Debates on slavery during the Revolutionary Era
- V. Antebellum slavery
- VI. Civil War slavery
- VII. Freedom and Reconstruction
- VIII. Jim Crow in the Gilded Age
- IX. Black philosophy (i.e., Frederick Douglas, W.E.G. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Marcus Garvey)
- X. Civil Rights movement
- XI. Black Power movement
- XII. Race in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### **Course Requirements:**

Grading procedure will be determined by the individual faculty member.

Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will require at least 2,500 words of formal writing. The writing assignments are intended to communicate with a specific audience and meet the minimum standards of proficiency. At least three essay type exams will be required. Students will use writing in class as a means to learn, to integrate information, to review what they have learned, and to clarify their response to assigned works.

\*Specific guidelines for the book review will be provided by the instructor.