

# African American United States History

## Meet the Teacher!

My Name is Ms. Kramer

I have worked at Pete Knight High School for the past 16 years as a U.S. History Teacher. I have a bachelors degree in History from Mount Saint Mary's University Los Angeles and a Masters degree in Humanities from the same institution. This is the first year KHS is offering the course African American U.S. History and I enthusiastically volunteered to teach this class. I have always believed in celebrating diversity and promoting an inclusive atmosphere in my classroom. African American History is a topic I feel passionately about and I could not be more excited to share it with students.

It is an A-G approved course for college and also satisfies the California State mandated U.S. History credit for graduation. In this document you will learn a bit more about what students will be learning this school year and how you can help your student be successful in my class. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

The best way to contact me is through email: [akramer@avhsd.org](mailto:akramer@avhsd.org)



Welcome

This year we are embarking on a journey through history as it is being made across our nation. As an educator, I firmly believe in order to know where you are going you have to know where you have been. It is my job this year to help students learn the tumultuous and inspiring history of our country.

The topics presented in African American U.S. History may include perspectives that could be considered controversial, including references to ethnicity, nationality, religion, politics, race, dialect, sexuality, gender or class. The purpose of this content is to provide students with an insight into the challenges faced by African Americans throughout our nation's history. This class requires students to have the level of maturity and skill to thoughtfully consider and analyze diverse perspectives. The inclusion of topics, readings, texts, and other source material is not intended as an endorsement by Knight High School or by the instructor of the content, ideas, or values expressed in the material



Course Overview

African American History is designed to provide an in depth analysis of the causes, character, and consequences of the African American experience and its influence on America and the world. It begins with a broad geographic, cultural, social, and historical understanding of the African continent, West Africa in particular. The course will continue with the Columbian Exchange between the Americas and Europe.

Then, the course will examine the causes and effects of the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the rise of slavery in the Western Hemisphere and how the interaction of African, Native American and Europeans in the "New World" constitutes a unique American experience. The course will then focus on the struggles and triumphs of the development of America from colonial times to the present, with special attention given to the African American experience.



## Topics We Will Cover this Year

- African Origins & the Diaspora (Pre-History 1500s)
- The African Diaspora and Cultural Exchange in the New World (1600's-1700's)
- Colonial America, The American Revolution and the Early Republic (1609-1824)
- Manifest Destiny and the Buildup to Civil War
- Civil War and Reconstruction (1861-1877)
- The Gilded Age, Progressivism and America as a World Power (1865-1920)
- WWI-WWII and the Roots of the Civil Rights Movement (1914-1945)
- Cold War, Civil Rights and Black Power (1945-1973)
- Post Civil Rights America 1968- 1990
- Contemporary Issues in the African American Community (1990-present)



## What Students Need For Class

Students will need access to functioning internet connection to complete their assignments. While some assignments are completed by the student on paper, the work will need to be photographed and uploaded digitally to Google Classroom. Students are encouraged to charge their school issued chromebooks every night and bring them to class every day.

### Other Supplies Include:

- 1-2 note book with lined paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Multicolored Highlighters
- Course Textbook



## Get Connected!



**Turn on your notifications** for classroom app on your smartphone.

**Check Classroom Daily**  
(stream & classwork page)

**Parents should accept invitation to view Google Classroom** to view student work and turn in rate.



**Check Power School Regularly**



**Check school email daily.**



Google Docs



Google Slides



Google Drive

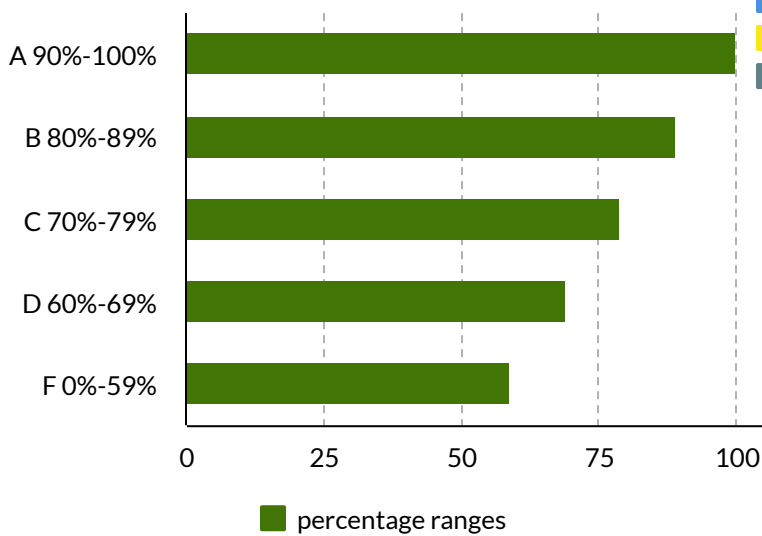


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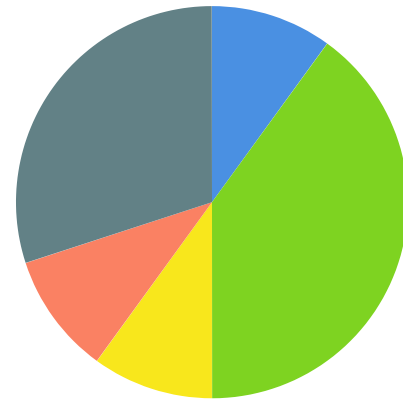
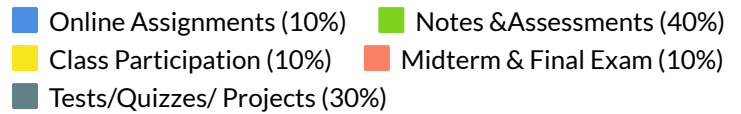


**INSTALL ON YOUR PHONE!**  
**FOR FREE!**

## GRADE SCALE

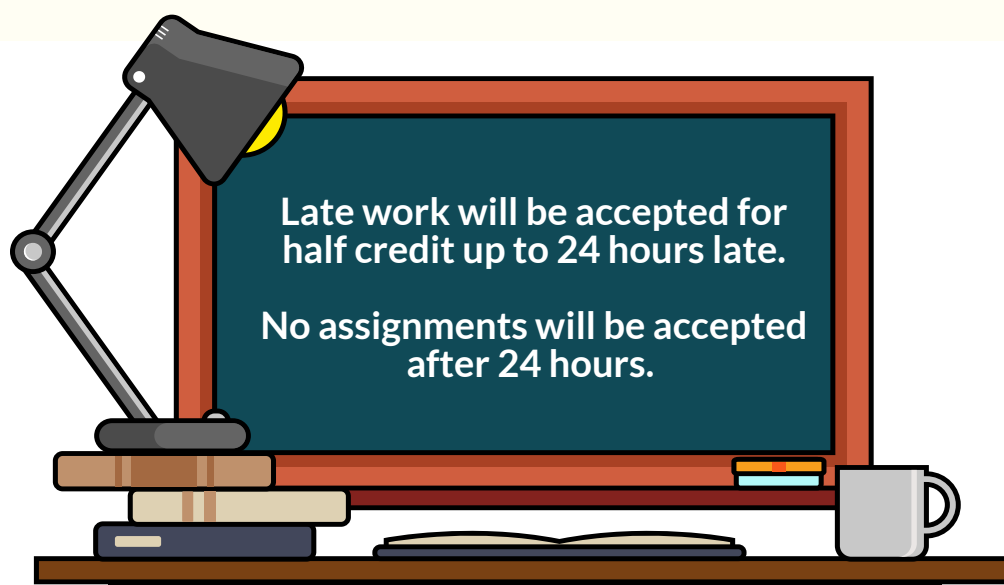


## Grading Categories



## Ms. Kramer's Grading Policies

1. Students are responsible for attending class and completing work as directed.
2. If students miss class it is their responsibility to check the google classroom and seek assistance during homeroom, lunch, or after school.
3. Students are responsible for completing and submitting their assignments to google classroom on time. Incomplete work will not be given any credit.
3. Students who waste class time instead of working on their assignment will not be given additional time to complete their work.
4. There is a zero tolerance policy for cheating and plagiarism.
5. All work will be submitted digitally to Google Classroom, even if it is completed on paper. (paper assignments must be photographed and uploaded).
6. At the teacher's discretion: Extra Credit privileges will be revoked from any student caught cheating on classwork, homework, quizzes, exams, or projects.



# Class Rules

1. Be Respectful of the teacher, your classmates, and the virtual classroom.
2. Be Honest
3. Take ownership of your own behavior and choices.
4. Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn everyday.
5. No eating while in class.
6. Be responsible and respectful when using personal technology.
7. No Bullying.
8. No Cursing. Use appropriate language in the classroom and on assignments

**Please Note**  
If students choose to ignore warnings from the teacher to correct their behavior then they will lose points from their participation grade for violating the classroom rules.

## Disciplinary Action



**We use a progressive system of discipline at Knight High School outlined in the student planner.**

**Students may be given warnings, be referred to the vice principal, and /or may be suspended or expelled for violating school/classroom rules.**

**Parents will be notified via email or telephone by the teacher if your student violates the rules of this classroom or Knight High School.**



## COVID-19 Protocols

Per state and District Guidelines

✓ Students are required to wear masks in doors at all times. (This includes the classroom)

✓ Masks are available for any student who does not have a mask upon entering the classroom

✓ Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes are available in my classroom for students who wish to wipe down their desk or Chromebook at the start of class.





# How Can Parents/Guardians Help Their Students?



1. Activate your Power School account and make sure ALL contact information is current and correct.

2. Check Student's grades and attendance regularly on power school.

3. Request an invitation to view the students classes in Google Classroom.

4. Check to make sure students are completing their digital assignments and not just clicking the turn in button to submit a blank assignment.

5. Keep communication open with your student's teachers. Please feel free to call or email if you have questions or concerns.

TIP: It is helpful for your parent/guardian email to be a gmail account so that you can have the option to meet with your student's teacher's via google meet.



## Online Etiquette

Because a great deal of communication will take place online this year, it is important to remember to adhere to the following rules:

- Always be polite and respectful when addressing others when communicating online
- Be mindful of your tone and word choice, especially when writing e-mails or posting online .
- Do not write in all caps, but do be mindful of proper grammar and punctuation.
- Never write an e-mail or online post in the same manner you would write a text.
- If you would not say it in the classroom, do not say it online.

**\*\*Please note that e-mails and any other online communications sent to the teacher that are not written in a polite and respectful manner will not receive a response.**

**\*\*This applies to all online communication received from students and parents.\*\***



## Parent Agreement

Parents and Students need to be aware of the classroom rules, expectations, and policies. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Kramer via email: [akramer@avhsd.org](mailto:akramer@avhsd.org)

In order for your student to get credit for having reviewed this document, a parent or legal guardian must fill out the form linked on the classroom website.

Please visit our class website:  
<http://mskramersclass.weebly.com/>  
to complete the parent agreement so that your student can receive points.



Ms. Kramer reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time. As the needs of the school year dictate.