



Marine Science Magnet High School

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SOC0399– Black and Latino Studies 2024-2025

Required Texts/Readings:

Short readings may be assigned by the teacher throughout the year.

Course Description:

The course is an opportunity for students to explore accomplishments, struggles, intersections, perspectives, and collaborations of African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino people in the U.S. Students will examine how historical movements, legislation, and wars affected the citizenship rights of these groups and how they, both separately and together, worked to build U.S. cultural and economic wealth and create more just societies in local, national, and international contexts. Coursework will provide students with tools to identify historic and contemporary tensions around race and difference; map economic and racial disparities over time; strengthen their own identity development; and address bias in their communities.

Materials Needed:

Three Ring Binder or two-pocket folder. Pens/Pencils, highlighters.

Classroom Attendance, Academic and Behavior Expectations

All MSMHS students are required to uphold the attendance, academic and behavioral expectations outlined in the school's Student/Parent Handbook which can be found on the MSMHS website.

Retake / Revision Policy

- All students will be allowed to retake/revise all interim and unit summative assessments (with the possible exception of ECE assessments).
- Retakes/revisions on any summative assessments must be completed within **2 weeks of when the assessment was returned to the student** or before the end of the quarter, whichever comes first.
- Students who want the opportunity to retake/revise a unit summative assessment must have completed all **scored** and **graded** assignments before taking the original summative assessment or the end of the quarter, whichever comes first. In addition, any part of a unit summative that is done outside of class, must be complete and turned in on time in order to be eligible for a retake/revision.

- Retakes/revisions are re-evaluations of learning; therefore, students earn the new grade not an average of the two grades, regardless of whether the new grade is higher or lower than the original.

*Note: There are no retakes/revisions for Midterms or Finals. Students with IEP or 504 accommodations for extended time should work with their teacher and/or case manager to determine appropriate application of their accommodations to this policy.

Late Work

Missing graded work/formative assessments must be completed, fully and accurately, before the unit summative assessment due date or the end of the quarter, whichever comes first, in order to receive credit. Any missing work will receive a 0 in PowerSchool until it is turned in before the summative assessment. After a unit summative assessment, work cannot be made up and will remain a 0 in PowerSchool.

Additionally, all Social Studies courses will abide by the following Late Work Policy: No points will be deducted for late work leading up to the summative assessment. No points will be deducted for late summative assessments, BUT summative assessments submitted late cannot be revised, and summative assessments not submitted within two weeks of the deadline or by the end of the quarter, whichever comes first, will receive a 0.

Extra Help:

Students interested in receiving extra help from teachers, or in meeting with their teacher before or after school, need to schedule a mutually agreed upon time to meet with their teacher. Teachers may require specific procedures for requesting appointments for extra help. Please know that teachers will be unable to meet with students on Wednesdays due to regularly scheduled faculty meetings.

Cell Phones

Students are permitted to bring cell phones to school, however, they must be stored in the designated location in each classroom throughout the block, including study hall. Students may not bring cell phones with them when they leave the classroom for any reason. Students may also be required to turn smart watches or other devices to designated locations during class at the request of the teacher. Students found to have violated these expectations will be required to turn their cell phone into school administration. Repeated offenses may result in escalated consequences. Cell phones may not be used in restrooms for any reason. Cell phones may be used before, during lunch, or after school hours.

Grade/Grade Reporting:

Overall evaluation in a course is measured in a number of ways in the form of formative and summative assessments.

MSMHS uses the following language for communicating how assignments will be scored and represented in PowerSchool:

- “Graded” – The assignment is evaluated for accuracy (not completion), is given a numeric score, is entered in PowerSchool and is included in the quarter average.
- “Scored” – The assignment is evaluated for accuracy (not completion), is given a numeric score, may be entered into PowerSchool, but is not included in quarter average.

- “Recorded” – The assignment is marked as completed or not completed, not given a numeric score, may be entered into PowerSchool, but is not included in quarter average.

Course grades are calculated by using the following percentages:

Q1 = 20%

Q2 = 20%

Midterms = 10%

Q3 = 20%

Q4 = 20%

Finals = 10%

The following table shows the letter grades equivalent to numerical grades and GPA.

Letter	Numerical Equivalent	GPA Equivalent	Honors Weighting	AP/ECE Weighting
A+	97-100	4.3	4.52	4.73
A	93-96	4.0	4.20	4.40
A-	90-92	3.7	3.89	4.07
B+	87-89	3.3	3.47	3.63
B	83-86	3.0	3.15	3.30
B-	80-82	2.7	2.84	2.97
C+	77-79	2.3	2.42	2.53
C	73-76	2.0	2.10	2.20
C-	70-72	1.7	1.79	1.87
D+	67-69	1.3	1.37	1.43
D	63-66	1.0	1.05	1.10
D-	60-62	0.7	0.74	0.77
F	50-59	0.0	0.0	0.0

Academic Integrity:

All work submitted by students should be a true reflection of their effort and ability. If submitted work or tests are not, then the student has manifested unacceptable academic behavior.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as intentionally or unintentionally presenting another's work as your own. Any source material (electronic, written, verbal) accessed to complete an assignment must be cited. Plagiarism includes the following:

- Copying verbatim or blending source material with your own without proper attribution,
- Paraphrasing source materials or borrowing ideas, terms, or concepts without acknowledging the source,
- Inventing sources or false attributions for sources,
- Supplying/selling your work to another or purchasing/copying another's work.

Cheating

Cheating is defined as copying all or part of an assignment or assessment or allowing another to copy your work. It is also doing someone's work or having someone else do your work. Cheating includes the following:

- Using unauthorized materials, devices, or assistance of any kind to complete your work or assessment, including on-line transfers,

- Collaborating on a task without the teacher's authorization, as well as providing or receiving information so as to give/gain an unfair advantage,
- Aiding another in cheating.

Other Academic Misconduct

Other forms of serious academic misconduct include:

- Altering grades,
- Stealing or obtaining test/assessment materials or answers,
- Submitting the same (or nearly the same) work for more than one class without disclosure or approval,
- Falsifying information on school related documents and forms.

ANY behavior that can be defined as cheating/plagiarism represents a violation of mutual trust and respect essential to education at MSMHS. Students suspected of cheating should expect to be questioned by their teacher. Students violating this rule are subject to the following penalties:

- Re-do of the assignment, notification to parents/caretakers; disciplinary consequence, written summary of event and action taken given to administration.
- If a student is found to have cheated/plagiarized a second time or is involved in a particularly serious act of cheating/plagiarism, the student will be referred to administration for appropriate penalties beyond those listed above. Additional penalties include such consequences as notification to award and scholarship committees; suspension from class or school and notification to the student's prospective colleges; loss of or disqualification from honors/privileges and positions (e.g. NHS, school leadership position).

Course Unit Outline - Unit Title and Tentative Dates:

Note: Teacher has discretion to change throughout the year.

Unit I- Social Construction of Race

September 2024

Enduring Understandings:

- African culture has impacted the development of culture throughout world civilizations.
- Racialized global conflict and change in the world has been shaped by multiple factors.

Semester one will primarily focus on the study of Puerto Rican/ Latino history.

Unit II- Early Beginnings: Who are we?

September- October 2024

Enduring Understandings

- The perceptions and realities of Puerto Rican and Latino peoples can be influenced by their individual and collective identities.
- Latino populations often develop different understandings in identity outside of the Black-White binary.

Unit III- The Relationship between Puerto Rico and The United States

October- November 2024

Enduring Understandings

- Colonizing Europeans left behind a single perspective of their historical encounter with Indigenous peoples.
- Within American history lies various forms of anti-Latino treatment including language suppression, and scientific experimentation.
- In spite of oppression, Latino people have contributed to American history.
- The development of Latin American societies was impacted by a period of social and economic “transformation” sparked by colonialism.
- Latin Americans and Puerto Ricans constructed identities as a result of historic and economic experiences of enslaved Africans in those areas.
- The Puerto Rican nation was shaped by the role of many groups in addition to the impact of the United States on the area.

Unit IV- Resistance and Defiance

November- December 2024

Enduring Understandings

- Power structures within the United States have influenced the oppression of people and voices in the Latino world.
- The arts have served as a form of resistance, strength and community building.
- Populations of Puerto Rican and Latin Americans have migrated to Connecticut.
- Contributions of Puerto Rican and Latino people have been excluded due to the misconceptions and negative beliefs normalized about them.

Midterm Exam

Semester two will primarily focus on the study of African American/ Black history.

Unit V – How African Americans Persisted: Slavery and Freedom Stories

January 2025

Enduring Understandings

- Africans, African Americans, and their descendants have struggled to gain freedom, equality, and social justice.
- In multiple ways, slavery became embedded in American culture and legislation.
- The interpretation of slavery can be influenced based on the racial and cultural context of the interpreter.

Unit VI – Agency and Resistance

January- February 2025

Enduring Understandings:

- Africans and African descendants worked individually and collectively to spark revolutionary change to their existence.
- Perspectives of freed and enslaved Africans shed light of experiences ranging from enslavement to freedom to activism.
- Africans and African descendants worked individually and collectively to spark revolutionary change to their existence.
- Reconstruction politics had impacts of White and Black Americans following the Civil War.

Unit VII – Equality, Protest, and Power

March- April 2025

Enduring Understandings:

- In the movement for equality, various tactics were used to accomplish missions towards equality with varying success.
- Individuals, groups, and institutions in the United States have both promoted and hindered people’s struggle for freedom, equality, and social justice.
- Women of color played a role in the women’s rights movement.
- In varying degrees of impact, historical, contemporary, and emerging means of changing societies promote the common good and protect rights.

Unit VIII - Freedom Art Gallery (PBL)

April- May 2025

Enduring Understandings:

- Having freedom does not always mean a person is truly “free.”
- Artistic/creative mediums act as a form of expression, truth telling, and educational tools that can be accessed by all.

Final Exam