

Seattle Public Schools

Black Studies US History

Spring Semester 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

Will this course be offered at all high schools?

No, this class will not be offered at all high schools but will be offered remotely to all high schools.

Will only students from my school be in this class?

High school juniors from across Seattle Public Schools will have access to this course. Students from your school, as well as students from any Seattle Public Schools high school might take advantage of this course offering.

How do I unenroll from my current US History class to take the online Black Studies US History course?

Email your counselor at your school and let them know that you are interested in switching into the Black Studies US History course and out of your current US History course for second semester. Counselors and Data Registrars will work together to unenroll you from your current class and enroll you into the Black Studies US History course.

How often will this class meet?

Like your current US History class, this class will meet for one hour two times a week with a teacher through Microsoft Teams. In addition to the in-class time, you will be assigned work to complete outside of your meeting time similarly to your current course schedule.

How will this course appear on my transcript if it was not taught at my school?

You will receive a separate transcript for this course from your school transcript. All colleges and universities will recognize this transcript as a legitimate Seattle Public Schools document.

Can I take this course in addition to my AP US History course or my IB of the Americas?

If seats remain available in this course, any student can dually enroll in AP US History or IB of the Americas and Black Studies US History. Priority will be given to any student who will substitute this course for their current US History course.

When and where will this class meet if we return to school buildings in the spring?

This class will meet from the beginning of spring semester until the end of the school year online. There are two class options available. One will meet 0-period 8 am – 9 am on Tuesdays and Fridays, the other will meet 8th period 4 pm – 5 pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

What will I do during my currently scheduled US History class period time?

If you are enrolled in the Black Studies US History course, you will no longer attend your regularly scheduled US History course from the start of spring semester to the end of the year. You might decide to use this time to complete readings or homework from your new course.

If I enroll in the course and decide I do not like it, can I go back to my previous US History course?

No. In registering for this course you have already decided the content interests you. You will have committed taking this course for the rest of the school year.

How will my school and teachers be informed that I am taking Black Studies US History instead of the US History course I am currently enrolled in?

When the Data Registrar unenrolls you from your current US History course they will send an email to your former teacher, principal and counselor to inform them that you will be transitioning to the Black Studies US History course.

What happens if the transitioning to the Black Studies US History course leaves a hole in the middle of a student's day?

During remote learning, students will be allowed to have an unassigned period during the school day (i.e., where they would have been scheduled for their current US History 11B course) so that they can enroll in this course.

What guidance do we have for students enrolled in AP or IB US History courses?

If students are planning to use an AP or IB course to complete a HB 1599 graduation pathway or earn college credit, they should remain in that course.

When and how can I register for the Black Studies US History course?

At 8:30 am on January 8th, course enrollment will open. In order to register you will follow the link below and complete the information needed to express your interest in taking the course. You will be notified by January 15th as to whether you are enrolled in the course.

How will enrollment in the course be determined?

Since there are a limited number of seats, only 60, priority will be given on a first come, first served basis. Students who sign up earliest are more likely to secure a seat in the course. Only SPS high school juniors are eligible to register for this course.

How will I be notified that I am enrolled in the course?

Since there are only 60 seats reserved for this course, we anticipate that some students will unfortunately be turned away. You will be notified by January 15th so that you can plan accordingly.

Can any high school student take this course?

The only students who can enroll in this course are current juniors who are enrolled in US History in Seattle Public Schools. This course is not open to freshman, sophomores, or seniors.