



# **Censorship in the Classroom & The Banning of AP African American Studies in Florida**





# AP African American Studies

- History, civil rights, politics, literature, the arts, and geography
  - How African Americans contributed to the country and the Black experience
- Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, banned AP African American Studies before the course syllabus was released
  - No public schools in Florida can have the class
  - “inexplicably contrary to Florida law and significantly lacks educational value”
- AP French, Japanese, German, Spanish, Italian, Chinese Language and Culture, European History, etc. not banned



# Stop Woke Act & Banning of Math Textbooks



- Stop Woke Act
  - Restricts how racism and other aspects of history can be taught in schools and workplaces
  - Based heavily on the assumption that CRT is taught in schools
- Last year, Florida rejected 42 of 132 math textbooks proposed for use in public school classrooms
  - “incorporate prohibited topics or unsolicited strategies”, social-emotional learning and critical race theory, according to FDOE
- Trumpist culture war issues





# CONCERNS FOUND WITHIN COLLEGE BOARD'S SUBMITTED AP AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSE

| TOPICS FROM AP COURSE   | CONCERN   |
|---|---|
| <b>Topic 4.15<br/>Intersectionality<br/>and Activism</b>                                    | <p>Intersectionality is foundational to CRT, and ranks people based on their race, wealth, gender and sexual orientation.</p> <p><b>INCLUDED READING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kimberle Crenshaw – Known as the “founder” of intersectionality, co-editor of <i>Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Formed the Movement</i></li><li>• Angela Davis – self-avowed Communist and Marxist</li></ul>   |
| <b>Topic 4.19<br/>Black Queer Studies</b>   | <p><b>INCLUDED READING:</b></p> <p>Roderick Ferguson – who exclaims, “We have to encourage and develop practices whereby queerness isn’t a surrender to the status quos of race, class, gender and sexuality. It means building forms of queerness that reject the given realities of the government and the market.”</p>   |
| <b>Topic 4.29<br/>Movements for<br/>Black Lives</b>   | <p>Movement for Black Lives is an organization with stated objectives that include eliminating prisons and jails, ending pretrial detention, and concluding “the war on Black trans, queer, gender non-conforming, and intersex people.”</p> <p><b>INCLUDED READING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leslie Kay Jones who wrote, “Every day, black people produce an unquantifiable amount of content for the same social media corporations that reproduce the white supremacist superstructures that oppress us.”</li></ul> |
| <b>Topic 4.16<br/>Black Feminist<br/>Literary Thought</b>                                   | <p><b>INCLUDED READING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bell Hooks – Author of many intersectionality texts, and in the recommended reading states “I began to use the phrase in my work ‘white supremacist capitalist patriarchy’ because I wanted to have some language that would actually remind us continually of the interlocking systems of domination that define our reality.”</li></ul>   |
| <b>Topic 4.30<br/>The Reparations<br/>Movement</b>  | <p>All points and resources in this study advocate for reparations. There is no critical perspective or balancing opinion in this lesson.</p>   |
| <b>Topic 4.31<br/>Black Study and<br/>Black Struggle in the<br/>21<sup>st</sup> Century</b> | <p><b>INCLUDED READING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Robin D.G. Kelley argues that activism, rather than the university system, is the catalyst for social transformation.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Kelley’s first book was a study of Black communists in Alabama.</li><li>◦ Kelley warns that simply establishing safe spaces and renaming campus buildings does nothing to overthrow capitalism.</li></ul></li></ul>  |



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**Is DeSantis's banning of  
AP an overreach of his  
power and an act of  
censorship?**

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**Should the state  
government or local  
school boards be the ones  
to ban classes?**

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**Is there any point in  
banning books nowadays  
when access to the internet  
available to school  
children?**

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# **Should AP African American Studies have been banned?**

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**Have any questions, comments, or concerns?**  
**Email us at**  
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