
AP African American Studies



Nelva Williamson



In 2023 I attended the AP Conference in Seattle, Washington, which further added to my knowledge of AP and the impact it has on my school community. I have also attended AP United States History and AP World History APSIs and I use this knowledge to enhance my students' study and understanding of these courses, which I currently teach in addition to AP African American Studies. I am currently a pilot 2 teacher for the course. Additionally, I am one of the consultants who holds quarterly small group Q&A sessions for educators of the course who participated in an official AP Summer Institute.

I am a veteran educator in the Houston Independent School District located in Houston, Texas with over forty years of experience. I have taught a variety of history and social studies courses during my tenure in Houston. Additionally, I have helped write curriculum and assessments for the Social Studies Department. I currently teach at Young Women's College Preparatory Academy, an all-girls public school in historic Third Ward, Houston, Texas. The school was founded in 2011 and I am proud to say I am one of the inaugural teachers. In 2022 my school was selected by the College Board to participate in the first year of the pilot for the Advanced Placement African American Studies course. As one of the original sixty educators of the pilot, I was trained at the Howard University AP Summer Institute that same summer. I also attended the inaugural gala held at the African American History and Culture Museum in Washington, DC to celebrate the official launch of the course in February 2023. I became a certified consultant of the College Board for the AP African American Studies course in March of 2023. I served as a Question Leader for the first exam reading for the AP African American Studies pilot year 1. During the summer of 2023, I was a consultant to a group of twenty-five educators during the AP Summer Institute held at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

I am currently a pilot 2 teacher for the course. Additionally, I am one of the consultants who holds quarterly small group Q&A sessions for educators of the course who participated in an official AP Summer Institute. I am the Professional Learning Community (PLC) lead teacher for the course in my district. There are currently six teachers in my district who teach the course in pilot 2 and I serve as their point of contact for the course and the College Board.

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I earned my BS degree in Education, Curriculum, and Instruction with a concentration in History and Drama from Texas A& University in College Station, Texas. I hold lifetime certifications in both Texas and Massachusetts. I am certified to teach history, social studies, and drama in grades six through twelve. I have primarily taught history and social studies during my tenure as a secondary educator. In 2022 I was a panelist at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic conference. In March of 2023 I was a panelist at South by Southwest which is held in Austin, Texas. In November of 2023 I was honored to be a panelist at Central European University in Vienna, Austria. As a panelist at each of these events, I spoke on the topic of teaching history in the age of anti-history laws and book bans. I have also been featured in The Guardian, ABCNews online, School Library Journal, the Huffington Post online, Edutopia, the Houston Chronicle, StoryCorps, Houston Matters and National Public Radio offering my insight in the teaching of African American history and how to teach authentic history despite anti-history laws.

See apnewmexico.org for registration information.

