



Reconstruction

2023/2024

FEATURED COURSE CATALOG



Culturally relevant. Academically rigorous.
Authentically engaging.



Small-group live tutoring from
Reconstructors who get it.

UNAPOLOGETICALLY BLACK EDUCATION

A selection of our 2023/2024 courses from the leader in K12 supplemental enrichment courses centering Black history, culture, and joy! Reach out to partnerships@reconstruction.us today.





Program Overview

All Reconstruction courses are aligned with the goals of the Common Core State Standards and many state college and career readiness standards. Additionally, foundational reading courses are designed to reflect the findings of the National Reading Panel. Classes are designed to be supplemental and provide opportunities to both preview or review key content and skills across disciplines.

Course Frequency & Duration

- Each course has ten class sessions that can be implemented twice per week for five weeks or at any interval that your school/district/organization desires. Each class session is approximately 45 - 60 minutes.
- During a **semester**, students can take **three courses** consecutively or **six courses** throughout the **school year**.

Let our Partnerships Team design a schedule that aligns with your school calendar.

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Early Elementary

K-2nd Grade (5 - 8 years old)

Early Elementary Reading

These courses develop the roots of reading; the essential foundational reading skills necessary to access a world of Black history, knowledge, and culture. For students ages 4 -8, this supplemental reading program provides practice with key reading skills of blending and segmenting using a research-based scope and sequence targeting sound-spelling patterns and high-frequency words. Student learning is supported by cultural and identity-affirming activities and instructional materials.

☐ **Dropping Seeds**

Kindergarten

A is for Africa in this course designed for young readers as they begin their pursuit of knowledge by building awareness of sounds within words and sentences, as well as everyday sounds. There is a series of courses as a part of the Dropping Seeds curriculum.

☐ **Sprout Up**

1st grade

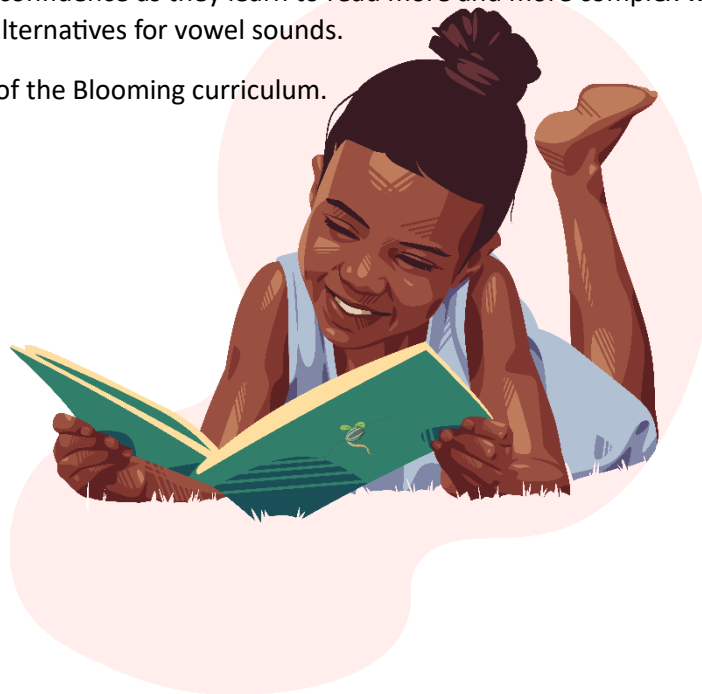
Through rich traditions of rhythm, rhyme, & movement students will continue to develop the phonics skills that are at the root of being able to read. There is a series of courses as a part of the Sprout Up curriculum.

☐ **Blooming**

2nd grade

Students will develop increasing reading confidence as they learn to read more and more complex words with an emphasis on vowel sounds and spelling alternatives for vowel sounds.

There is a series of courses that is a part of the Blooming curriculum.





Early Elementary Mathematics

In these courses, students will learn about the contributions of Black mathematicians and scientists and how their ideas continue to shape the world. Courses are designed to build strong quantitative reasoning and fluently identify and manipulate numbers through addition and subtraction. Students will use their environment to explore, interpret and deeply understand the base 10 number system while developing their identities as mathematicians. Sample units include:

☐ **Black Mathletes**

Kindergarten

Who are the Black athletes who paved the way for many of the greats we know today? Students will learn about athletes who broke barriers and broke records in sports while practicing strategies for additions.

☐ **Why Choose S.T.E.M.**

1st grade

Students will be introduced to S.T.E.M. careers in a manner that is sure to spark their interest by learning about notable Black professionals from the past and present in this innovative field. Throughout the unit, students will deepen their understanding of the relationship between addition and subtraction.

☐ **Magnitude of HBCUs**

2nd grade

Students will be introduced to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) by exploring the energetic traditions of HBCU marching bands while developing a conceptual understanding of place value. Students will practice expressing numbers in a variety of ways such as word, expanded, unit, and standard form.

Early Elementary Cultural Explorations

Reconstruction partners with leading cultural institutions to develop classes that celebrate Black excellence through dance, poetry, cooking, and more. These enrichment classes are designed for students of all ages, and new offerings are added to the list periodically.

☐ **ABC's of Step**

Grades K-3

In this class specifically designed for young learners, they will step into the history and background of step, with ample time to step, move, and wiggle around. Students will learn a basic step routine.

☐ **Black Innovation Workshop: S.T.E.A.M.**

Grades K-3

Young students will play to learn by engaging in activities that integrate the arts into key concepts in science, math, technology, and engineering. Classes are open-ended and encourage children to build self-confidence, improve their cognition, and extend their cultural awareness by highlighting notable Black STEM professionals. Each class includes hands-on art activities accompanied by reading aloud and group discussions.

☐ **Reconstruction Era Series: Oh, Freedom!**

Grades K-2

"Oh Freedom" is a K-2 course on the history of the Reconstruction. In this course students will explore what it means to be "free". Through the lens of a newly emancipated child, students will learn about the development of the Freedom Schools and how education is a catalyst for true freedom and liberation.



Late Elementary

3rd - 5th Grade (9 - 11 years old)

Late Elementary School Reading

These courses are designed to support the development of students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through experiences with fiction and non-fiction texts. With carefully curated texts and other multi-media sources, classes promote the untold stories, culture, values, and experiences of Black people around the world. Topics include African mythology, Black wellness, innovators, and media. Students will use this knowledge to understand their own experiences and how they, too, can impact the world. Courses include:

☐ Great Black Inventors

3rd Grade

Students will never see the world the same again after learning about the tremendous legacy of Black people who have greatly contributed to and built our modern-day world. They'll also gain an understanding of the copyright and patent process. This class is full of both inspiration and knowledge so they can launch the next big idea!

☐ Wakanda Forever

4th Grade

Students will immerse themselves in the Kingdom of Wakanda where the Black Panther reigns. Learn about the hero and the real-life influence of King Mansa Musa, Malcolm X, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students will craft speeches for various social and personal purposes, view examples of the Xhosa language, and be challenged to incorporate the language into their work.

☐ Kid President

5th Grade

Kid President, Robby Novak, wasn't just an internet sensation, he was a role model for students and adults. In this class, students will explore his most iconic speeches while crafting their own works of spoken art. The class will culminate with students performing their spoken word over beats to develop their own mixtape. It's all about self-advocacy and verbal self-expression in this class.

Late Elementary School Mathematics

These courses extend students' understanding of the base 10 system with decimal parts as well as concepts of multiplication, division, and fractions. Students will use data sets that are reflective and relevant to Black communities to think about mathematics as a tool for agency and action. Courses include:

☐ **Black as a Matter of Fact**

3rd Grade

Through the lesson activities students will apply strategies for multiplication and factoring to understand the accomplishments of Black leaders in banking, sports, and more. Math sets the stage for examining what happens when innovation and hard work meets opportunity.

☐ **A Night at the Movies: Black Panther**

4th Grade

This course focuses on the economic impact of the motion picture industry by studying profits from ticket and concession sales. Students will analyze data sets that bring awareness to the impact the Black community has on the movie industry. Students will also learn how to use the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) to analyze data sets, solve problems, and make decisions. Finally, students will explore how data can be used as a tool of information and empowerment for the Black community.

☐ **Ancient Empires of Africa**

5th Grade

The depth of Black heritage and culture is much more than a story of oppression, bondage, and triumph. The stories of Black people begin way before slavery. Black ancestors were mathematicians, architects, kings, and queens. They were royalty. The history of Black people, their current, and future stories, must always be remembered and told. In this class, students will learn about several African Empires that shaped the African continent and the world while deepening and extending the application of multiplication and division.



Late Elementary Cultural Explorations

Reconstruction partners with leading cultural institutions to develop classes that celebrate Black excellence through dance, poetry, cooking, and more. These enrichment classes are designed for students of all ages, and new offerings are added to the list periodically.

☐ Introduction to Music with Preservation Hall

Grades 3-5

Students will be taken on a musical journey of technical, physical, and personal growth while they learn how music has historically been used as a tool for social change. Developed in partnership with [Preservation Hall](#), this class is designed to encourage music creativity, exploration, improvisation, inquiry, and collective collaboration.

☐ Introduction to Stepping from Step Afrika!

Grades 3-5

Based on 25 years of [Step Afrika!'s](#) award-winning arts education programs, students will be introduced to the history and tradition of stepping, a polyrhythmic, percussive dance form that uses the body as an instrument, culminating in a unique step routine.

☐ You Better Know Dominoes

Grades 3-5

Students will learn the rules of Dominoes, variations of gameplay, and practice with peers with support from our skilled Reconstruction tutors. To participate, students will need a few things: 1) a device with a webcam 2) a reliable internet connection, and 3) access to a Dominoes playing website.

☐ Reconstruction Era Series: Liberation and Transformation



Grades 3-5

The ratification of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments serves as the legislative foundation of proof that Black people have the same inalienable rights in America as others. These three amendments transformed the lives of freed slaves, enshrined their rights, and set the foundation for civil rights for all Americans.

The lessons in this unit will enable participants to delve into the experiences of the newly freed slaves, Frederick Douglass (equal rights advocate), and laws enacted. The students will learn about the initiative and determination demonstrated by Black people during the Reconstruction era to educate themselves and make advancements in society. The learning will be wound up with a collage/infographic that allows the participants to creatively demonstrate their understanding of the material.

☐ A Safe Space for Spades

Grades 3-5

Students will learn the basics of Spades in a space where a few mistakes are no problem! Facilitated by our talented Reconstruction tutors, students will learn the rules of the game, and get plenty of practice. To participate, you will only need a few things: 1) a device with a webcam 2) a reliable internet connection, 3) access to a Spades play website.

☐ Standing on Her Shoulders: Poetry Workshop

Grades 3-5

Awaken your students' inner Amanda Gorman who acknowledges that Black people come from a tradition of poets. Let's keep the tradition alive! Join this powerful poetry workshop, Standing on Her Shoulders: A Workshop on Black Women Poets, brought in partnership with [Folger Shakespeare Library](#).





Middle School

6th - 8th Grade

Middle School Reading

These courses advance students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through experiences with fiction and non-fiction texts, music, and visual art specifically selected to capture the essence of activism, resilience, and joy. Students will be empowered with critical thinking and communication skills as they explore concepts of Black resistance, community-building, and radical self-love. The courses balance full novel studies as well as advanced fluency practice using spoken word, poetry, theater, speeches, and other oratory formats. Courses include:

☐ **Black Beauty: Colorism, Resilience, and Magic**

Grades: 6-8

Students will seek to answer the unit's essential question: What do we mean when we say that beauty is skin deep? Students will read and discuss Sharon G. Flake's debut novel, *The Skin I'm In*, to delve into concepts of Black resistance, community-building, and radical self-love.

☐ **Archaeology of Self**

Grades: 6-8

Students will create multiple spoken word pieces that speak to identity. Reading from poets like Nikki Giovanni, Elizabeth Acevedo, Mahogany Browne, Erica Buddington, and more, students will delve into the ways that poets use literary elements to emphasize aspects of their identity, enhance their poems, and take them from the page to the stage.

☐ **Exploring Identity & Resilience: Ghost Boys**

Grades: 6-8

How can students understand their identity? How can students respond to and heal from injustice? Students will learn to answer these questions by reading Jewell Parker Rhodes' *Ghost Boys*. Explore identity, activism, co-conspirators, allies, healing, and resilience. Investigate the characters' layers of identities and develop a clear understanding of how the various intersections of identity influences our experiences. Ultimately, the goal is to foster nuanced, critical conversations about race, racism, bias, and activism.

Middle School Mathematics

These courses are designed to decolonize math learning experiences by centering the lives and sensibilities of Black youth within the practice of mathematics. The cultivation of quantitative literacy is the cornerstone of Black liberation, wealth, and innovation. In these courses, students will use problem-based learning to deeply understand and apply mathematical procedures and concepts. Specific content emphasis will be placed on rates and proportional reasoning, algebraic thinking, and function models. Problem scenarios will be centered on social justice as well as the work of STEM professionals. Courses include:

☐ **A Night at an HBCU Football Game**

6th Grade

Students will learn how to use mathematics—specifically positive and negative integers, rational numbers, ratio/rates, and inequalities—to represent various real-world contexts. Students will use the familiar context of an HBCU football game to deepen their understanding of how various types of numbers are used in everyday life.

☐ **Are You Sizing Me Up?**

7th Grade

Students will delve into ratios and proportional relationships to answer the question “How can we use mathematical expressions and visuals to represent real-life relationships?” Math will be made more concrete by analyzing various real-world topics such as wealth, tuition, gas, food, COVID-19, etc.

☐ **Coding for the Culture**

Grades: 6-8

Many students want to learn how to build their own apps or website. Others want to learn to code or be an entrepreneur. In this innovative course students learn all that and more. First, students will learn to code and create apps, with instruction from a skilled coder. Then, as a culminating project, the class will build a real app for a non-profit with a mission relevant to the Black community. Previous classes have built real apps for food banks, schools, and local arts collectives. Along the way, they will hear from prominent Black entrepreneurs, including ones featured in *Forbes* and *Entrepreneur* magazine.



□ Math to Fight the Power

8th Grade

Students will investigate algebraic exercises designed to extend learning about integers, rational numbers, ratio/rates, and inequalities. Math and activism come together as students plan a community sports event to learn how various types of numbers are used in daily life.

□ STEM Identity NEW

Grades: 6-8

This unit provides a learning journey for students to re-establish the connection to or discover one's STEM identity. To launch, students define STEM, discuss representation, and examine the skills required for the field. They continually analyze data trends and learn more about the underrepresentation of marginalized people (disabled, BIPOC, LGBTQ, etc...) in STEM. With those themes, students exercise their voice, through advocacy. They research and reflect on where they see themselves in STEM careers. Students engage in the Science and Engineering Practices, by creating a design solution for a problem. This unit is an opportunity for students to use multimedia to share what STEM means to them.



Middle School Cultural Explorations

Reconstruction partners with leading cultural institutions to develop courses that celebrate Black excellence through dance, poetry, cooking, and more. These enrichment courses are designed for students of all ages, and new offerings are added to the list periodically.

☐ **African Art**

Grades: 6-8

Through observing, interpreting, and evaluating African art, students will discover some of the major dynasties and kingdoms across the continent. Students will explore Africa's rich resources, discuss what led to heightened global interest in the region, and how art tells the stories.

☐ **Afrobeats 101**

Grades: 6-8

Using music from different regions in Africa, students will explore the diversity of post-colonial Africa culminating in a creative project. Students will interpret the sounds and lyrics of music to understand various perspectives across the continent.

☐ **Black Film Club - "Selma"**

Grades: 6-8

Ava Duvernay's 2014 Oscar-nominated film, "Selma", tells the story of the civil rights leaders and their allies who staged three protest marches in Alabama, leading to Congress's passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA). This course is designed by [ARRAY 101](#) to provide a supportive environment to guide the viewing of the film, deepen social conversation, and explore systemic injustice.

☐ **Black Music History**

Grades: 6-8

Learn about the past, present, and future of Black music. Students will hear songs from multiple genres - blues, hip-hop, bluegrass, jazz, and rock - and find out about the legendary Black musicians who are responsible for bringing each genre to life. This class is based on *Black Music Is*, a book by Marcus Amaker - Charleston, SC's first Poet Laureate. Students will have a chance to respond to the music and hear songs from current musicians who are keeping history alive.



☐ Citizens of the World

Grades: 6-8

Students will virtually travel the world and answer the question, “Do Black people live here?” The answer is probably, “Yes!” Students will explore other cultures in ways that will inspire their future world travels. The class culminates with students completing their passport applications.

☐ Global Citizens

Grades: 6-8

This unit will aim to provide a connection to educate and solidify unity throughout their community of students. Students will build anti-racist solidarity across classrooms and uplift community using the arts, history, and literature.

☐ HBCU Virtual Tour

Grades: 6-8

Students will go on a virtual tour of HBCUs all around the nation. Students will be provided with a general history of the institution, primary documents, videos, or interviews, and writing prompts. They will be inspired by places like Tuskegee University, Bethune-Cookman University, Howard University, Florida A&M University, Bowie State University, and many more.

☐ Introduction to Stepping from Step Afrika!

Grades: 6-8

Based on 25 years of [Step Afrika!’s](#) award-winning arts education programs, students will be introduced to the history and tradition of stepping, a polyrhythmic, percussive dance form that uses the body as an instrument, culminating in a unique step routine.



☐ **Liberation by Design**

Grades: 6-8

Students will understand that much of what they interact with in their everyday lives is a result of design, and that all of it can be reimagined and redesigned. Through mini-lectures, video-based case studies, discussion, and questioning through the lens of Black experience and Black history, this class highlights the recognition and importance of design.

☐ **Reconstruction Era Series: Progress and Persistence**

Grades: 6-8

“Progress and Persistence” is a 6th-8th grade unit on the history of the Reconstruction Era. This unit seeks to explore the myriad of ways in which African Americans ensured Black Excellence could thrive amidst racist backlash from white Americans that sought to maintain the ‘status quo’ established during enslavement.

Through various inquiries into the social, economic, and political progress achieved following emancipation, students will be exposed to many important - yet often overlooked - Black American figures from this time period. The unit will end with students embarking on a social media campaign to raise awareness and educate their digital communities about one of these prominent Black figures from the Reconstruction era.

☐ **A Safe Space for Spades**

Grades: 6-8

Students will learn the basics of Spades in a space where a few mistakes are no problem! Facilitated by our talented Reconstruction tutors, students will learn the rules of the game, and get plenty of practice. To participate, you will only need a few things: 1) a device with a webcam 2) a reliable internet connection, 3) access to a Spades play website.

☐ **The Science and History of Black Hair**

Grades: 6-8

In this class, students will discuss the beautiful and ugly perspectives on “Black” hair. Additionally, they will take a journey and view Black hairstyles from over the last century. Students will learn about Madame CJ Walker and other innovators of Black hair care. On the scientific side, an investigation will be performed using human hair, to get a closer view of the changes that occur during a perm. During this course, students will analyze the Black hair care products on the market and determine whether they do what they claim. Lastly, students will explore the origin of hair types and consider how black hair is celebrated and weaponized in American culture.



☐ **Standing on Her Shoulders: Poetry Workshop**

Grades: 6-8

Awaken your students' inner Amanda Gorman who acknowledges that Black people come from a tradition of poets. Let's keep the tradition alive! Join this powerful poetry workshop, *Standing on Her Shoulders: A Workshop on Black Women Poets*, brought in partnership with [Folger Shakespeare Library](#).

☐ **Tour the African Diaspora**

Grades: 6-8

Developed in partnership with the [African Diaspora Alliance](#). This course will provide an opportunity for participants to virtually travel throughout the African Diaspora! Each class will focus on specific social-cultural contributions in Cuba, Brazil, France, and the United States.

☐ **You Better Know Dominoes**

Grades: 6-8

Students will learn the rules of Dominoes, variations of gameplay, and practice with peers with support from our skilled Reconstruction tutors. To participate, students will need a few things: 1) a device with a webcam 2) a reliable internet connection, and 3) access to a Dominoes playing website.





High School

9th - 12th Grade

High School Courses

These courses are designed to engage students in rigorous and relevant experiences that develop critical thinking and analytical skills with content and contexts that are not typically found in traditional high school programs. Courses center on texts written by Black authors, the realities of the African diaspora, the historical and contemporary issues of race and identity as well as the present and future implications for our world.

☐ All About Love



Grades 9-12

This book study explores the concept of love using bell hooks' *all about love*. During this unit, students will engage in reflecting on love as it shows up across their everyday lives with an intentional centering of Black love and love of all things Black. Students will explore love through the following lenses - a love of things, self-love, friendship and love, romantic love, and familial love. As students reflect on how they've experienced or witnessed love within each lens, students will perform a close read of specific chapters in all about love to use as a guidepost for discussions during each session. At the end of the unit, students will engage in a final project that allows them to convey the impact of their greatest love stories with the hopes of each story being included in a love compilation that will be shared across the Reconstruction community.

☐ Black Shakespeare

Grades 9-12

Developed by the Folger Shakespeare Library, this course delves into the intersection between African-American life and Shakespeare. Students will examine the many ways that Black Americans have encountered, responded to, and sometimes turned away from Shakespeare's words. Units include:

- **You are a Black Shakespeare Actor (Macbeth)** - Students will uncover the role of Black Shakespearean actors over time.
- **The Colonizer - Who, Why, and Resist (The Tempest)** - Students will examine the master/slave relationship and education as the ultimate resistance.
- **Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Othello's Story** - Students will critique Shakespeare's famous Black character.
- **Shakespeare and Racist Violence?! You Bet! (Titus Andronicus)** - Students will examine the construction of racism and racist violence.
- **Do Immigrants Belong?: Race, Religion, and Shakespeare (Merchant of Venice)** Students will interrogate concepts of race, religion and the immigrant experience.



Reconstruction

☐ Coding for the Culture

Grades 9-12

In this innovative course, students learn how to build their own app or website, how to be a coder and/or and entrepreneur. First, students will learn to code and create apps, with instruction from a skilled coder. Then, as a culminating project, the class will build a real app for a non-profit with a mission relevant to the Black community. Previous classes have built real apps for food banks, schools, and local arts collectives. Along the way hear from prominent Black entrepreneurs, including ones featured in Forbes and Entrepreneur magazine.

☐ College Bound



Grades 9-12

There are many post-high school pathways, and college is just one of them. This 10-session ~~unit~~ course is for students who have made the decision to attend college. The sessions provide opportunities for participants to find joy in their identity as Black students, learn about financial aid (FAFSA), identify ways to find community on the college campus, develop strategies for coping with microaggressions and implicit bias, explore types of post-secondary pathways (e.g., HBCUs, PWIs, community college, and trade schools), investigate the impact of social media, and testing bias. The theme of students embracing their identity will be reflected throughout the sessions in this course.

The unit is designed to offer initial guidance and tools as families navigate the college application process. Several sessions are workspaces so students can build a resume, develop an essay, begin scholarship applications, and answer sample ACT and SAT questions. Students will have a culminating task in Session 10; this will be introduced in Session One and a reminder will be presented in Sessions Six and Nine.



□ Reconstruction Canon

Grades 9-12

Re-define the traditional high school canon with classes that engage students in book club style conversations, appreciation, and analysis of classic and emerging Black literature.

Featured titles include:

- ***Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You*** - Award winning young adult author, Jason Reynolds, highlights the many insidious forms of racist ideas and how readers can stamp them out in their daily lives.
- ***Homegoing*** - Yaa Gyasi tells the story of stepsisters, Effia and Esi, and it charts their lives and subsequent generations of their families from the 18th century onwards while highlighting the beauty and resilience of Black life throughout the diaspora.
- ***Between the World and Me*** - Ta-Nehisi Coates helps us all fight prejudice and prepares black youth in the US for growing up by revealing the realities of life as a Black man dealing with racism in America.
- ***If Beale Street Could Talk*** - A lyrical, rapturous, beautifully written short novel by James Baldwin about love in the face of brutal injustice.
- ***Beloved*** - A novel by Toni Morrison, published in 1987 and winner of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, examines the destructive legacy of slavery.
- ***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** - *Their Eyes Were Watching God* follows the life of Janie Crawford, a girl of mixed black and white heritage, around the turn of the century.
- ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** - The first of seven autobiographical works by American writer Maya Angelou, published in 1969, the book chronicles her life from age 3 through age 16
- ***Becoming*** - This memoir of former first lady, Michelle Obama, which explores how she found her voice in a discriminatory society and emerged strong, fearless, and confident.

□ Social and Political Awareness

Grades 9-12

Students will examine the historical, social, and political context of protests and movements across time periods in the United States and throughout the world. From grassroots to global, this course invites students into the hearts of movements led by influential Black figures. Courses include:

- **Protests and Resistance** - Through the analysis of various modes of resistance throughout history, students will discuss the concepts of agency, emancipation and oppression.
- **Property and Citizenship** - Students will analyze historical and current laws and policy to refine ideas of property and citizenship of Black people in the United States.
- **Housing and Financial Justice** - Students will examine the implications of the various laws and policies which have been historically enacted to oppress, marginalize, impede access to property ownership and generational wealth for Black people in the United States.
- **Black Independence** - Students will analyze how the African diaspora has historically fought for independence across the globe.

☐ #SecuretheBag (Entrepreneurship)

Grades 10-12

Students will develop entrepreneurial thinking skills that will help them develop and further their own ideas of Black wealth. Through business principles, students will be equipped with the tools to do more than #SecuretheBag for themselves, but to also help their communities build generational wealth. Units include:

- **Developing Entrepreneurial Identity** - Students will develop their own entrepreneurial identities by examining Black entrepreneurship.
- **Getting Inspired and Finding Problems** - Students will connect with their own creative cores by exploring their inner designers and creators.
- **Understanding Value Proposition** - Students will explore how to understand how customers define and demand value.
- **Prototyping on Paper** - Students will begin putting together the “paper prototype” of their venture concept.
- **Telling Your Story** - Students will bring together the work they have done in past sessions to define their venture concept.





□ Pre-AP African Geography & History

Grades 9-12

This course mirrors the College Board's Pre-AP World History course outline with a focus on the continent of Africa. The course is divided into several rigorous units with a heavy focus on historical thinking skills in reading, writing, speaking and digital media. "Pre-AP® is registered by the College Board, which is not affiliated with, and does not endorse, these courses."

- **Foundations** - Students will learn about the African continent by exploring its geography, culture, and ethnic groups.
- **Ancient Period: Egypt** - Students will continue to build historical thinking skills in reading and writing with a focus on the ancient period to 600 BCE in Egypt.
- **Ancient Period: Nubia and Carthage** - This unit continues to build historical thinking skills in reading and writing with a focus on the Ancient Period in Nubia and Carthage.
- **Classical Period: Aksum and Kush** - Students will continue to build historical thinking skills in reading and writing with a focus on the Classical Period in Aksum and Kush.
- **Classical Period: Bantu** - Students will continue to build historical thinking skills in reading and writing with a focus on the Classical Period through Bantu People and comparing different ethnic groups.
- **Post Classical Period: Benin and Kanem-Bornu** - Students will continue to build historical thinking skills in reading and writing with a focus on the Post-Classical Period in Benin and Kanem-Bornu.
- **Post Classical Period: Kongo and Luba** - Students will continue to build historical thinking skills in reading and writing with a focus on the Post-Classical Period in Kongo and Luba.
- **Post Classical Period: Mali** - Students will continue to build historical thinking skills in reading and writing with a focus on the Classical Period in Mali and comparing different ethnic groups.
- **Reconstruction** - Students will summarize and reflect on their learnings through a culminating research project.



□ Pre-AP Black Literature

Grades 9-12

This course mirrors the College Board's Pre-AP Black Literature I course outline with a focus on Black authors, culture, and how literacy can be used as a vehicle of power. Students will develop their analysis and writing skills through the use of rigorous texts and materials. "Pre-AP® is registered by the College Board, which is not affiliated with, and does not endorse, these courses."

- **Narrative and Short Stories** -Students will read, analyze, and discuss the history, power, and creation of stories spanning fictional short stories and stories of self.
- **Poetry: Part One and Part Two** -Students will read, analyze, and discuss the nuances of language and rhythm in poetry written by Black authors.
- **Powerful Openings: Part One and Part Two** - Students will read various openings from a variety of published texts, connecting written introduction to the power of first impressions in writing.
- **Speeches and Arguments: Part One and Part Two** - Students will read, analyze, and discuss various historic and modern-day Black speeches and revolutionary writing that has sparked social change.
- **Powerful Quotes** -Students will read, analyze, and discuss various powerful quotes from Black leaders throughout different periods in history.
- **Open Letters** - Students will read, analyze, and discuss various open letters, their impact on society, and how they've been used to create change.
- **The Story of You** - Students will read different autobiographies and memoirs in preparation for writing their own at the end of the unit.





High School Cultural Explorations

Reconstruction partners with leading cultural institutions to develop classes that celebrate Black excellence through dance, poetry, cooking and more. These enrichment classes are designed for students at all ages, and new offerings are added to the list periodically.

☐ African Art

Grades 9-12

Through observing, interpreting, and evaluating African art, students will discover some of the major dynasties and kingdoms across the continent. Students will explore Africa's rich resources, discuss what led to heightened global interest in the region, and how art tells the stories.

☐ Afrobeats 101

Grades 9-12

Using music from different regions in Africa, students will explore the diversity of post-colonial Africa culminating in a creative project. Students will interpret the sounds and lyrics of music to understand various perspectives across the continent.

☐ Black Film Club - "When They See Us"

Grades 9-12

Ava Duvernay's four-part film focused on New York's Exonerative Five, "When They See Us", tells the harrowing story of how five innocent Black teens were prejudged as guilty by a powerful criminal justice machine. This course is designed by [ARRAY 101](#) to provide a supportive environment to guide the viewing of the film, deepen social conversation, and explore systemic injustice while encouraging participants to do the work necessary to make "liberty and justice for all" true for everyone.

☐ Black Film Club - "Selma"

Grades 9-12

Ava Duvernay's 2014 Oscar-nominated film, "Selma", tells the story of the civil rights leaders and their allies who staged three protest marches in Alabama, leading to Congress's passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA). This course is designed by [ARRAY 101](#) to provide a supportive environment to guide the viewing of the film, deepen social conversation, and explore systemic injustice.



☐ HBCU Virtual Tour

Grades 9-12

Students will go on a virtual tour of HBCUs all around the nation. Students will be provided with a general history of the institution, primary documents, videos, or interviews, and writing prompts. Be inspired by places like Tuskegee University, Bethune-Cookman University, Howard University, Florida A&M University, Bowie State University, and many more.

☐ Liberation by Design

Grades 9-12

Students will understand that much of what they interact with in their everyday lives is a result of design, and that all of it can be reimagined and redesigned. Through mini-lectures, video-based case studies, discussion, and questioning through the lens of Black experience and Black history, this class highlights the recognition and importance of design.

☐ A Safe Space for Spades

Grades 9-12

Students will learn the basics of Spades in a space where a few mistakes are no problem! Facilitated by our talented Reconstruction tutors, students will learn the rules of the game, and get plenty of practice. To participate, you will only need a few things: 1) a device with a webcam 2) a reliable internet connection, 3) access to a Spades play website.

☐ Tour the African Diaspora

Grades 9-12

Developed in partnership with the [African Diaspora Alliance](#). This course will provide an opportunity for participants to virtually travel throughout the African Diaspora! Each workshop will focus on specific social-cultural contributions in Cuba, Brazil, France, and the United States.

☐ You Better Know Dominoes

Grades 9-12

Students will learn the rules of Dominoes, variations of gameplay, and practice with peers with support from our skilled Reconstruction tutors. To participate, students will need a few things: 1) a device with a webcam 2) a reliable internet connection, and 3) access to a Dominoes playing website.



All Ages

Ages 5 – Grown Folks

All Ages & Family Cultural Explorations

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☐ Cooking for the Soul

All Ages 5 & Up

Create meals that are deeply ingrained in African American culture like black-eyed peas and rice, collard greens, cornbread, gumbo, and smothered chicken. There will be two sessions each week with the first class providing the history and health benefits of each dish, and the second session being a guided cooking tutorial brought to you by [Chef Toya Boudy](#). Food making area is needed.

☐ Caribbean Cuisine

All Ages 5 & Up

Create meals that incorporate ingredients from traditional Caribbean cuisine like sauteed greens, spiced potato, and plantain chips, banana bread, rice and peas with coconut, jerk chicken. Classes will provide the history and health benefits of each dish as well as a guided cooking tutorial. Food making area is needed.

☐ West African Cuisine

All Ages 5 & Up

This course explores the history of West African cuisine and its impact on the cultural identity of food in America. Students will learn about native African food crops enslaved Africans brought with them across the Atlantic. Exploring famous African chefs and their dishes will help students make connections and highlight the West African influence on American cuisine. Students will learn how to create authentic, iconic West African cuisine. Students will also research recent American chefs who have continued the traditions of the culture.

☐ History of Hair Braiding

All Ages 10 & Up

Students will try their hand at a variety of braiding styles and learn about the historical and cultural context of hair braiding.

☐ The History of the Black Church

All Ages 10 & Up

Students will explore the history and culture of the Black Church through conversations, text study, and exploration of the theme of Black Dignity. Using work from Dr. Eric Mason (Urban Apologetics & Woke Church) and making connections to the book “The Color Purple,” participants will examine the Black Church and its importance to the Black community.

2023-2024

FEATURED COURSE CATALOG

Reconstruction

What if all students
experienced Black history and
culture in a new light?



Let us customize a course plan for you students today!
Contact us at partnerships@reconstruction.us

