



**CREC Experience with the African
American/Black and Puerto
Rican/Latin(X)/(E) Studies Course**

2021-2022

Introductions

- ❑ Maryam Wardak, Supervisor of Teaching and Learning SS K-12, CREC

Overview of CREC Schools

-18 Schools and Programs; Diverse mixture of students from Suburban, Urban, and Rural areas across the Greater Hartford Region; servicing 35+ districts

-Current High Schools and grade level course is taught at:

- ❑ Academy of International Studies -10th grade
- ❑ Computer Science and Engineering Academy-10th grade
- ❑ Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts HS Full Day-9th grade
- ❑ Academy of Aerospace and Engineering- 10th grade and 2 elective classes for 11-12th grade
- ❑ Academy of Science and Innovation- 10th grade
- ❑ Impact Academy-10-12th grade

Timeline of District Implementation

- ❑ **Fall of 2020**-met with every department team leader and building administration to figure out how to include course in scope and sequence of every CREC school; part of graduation requirement
- ❑ **Spring 2021**-8 hours of PD time with teachers who would be teaching the course
- ❑ **Summer 2021**-Curriculum released in July; CCSU PD; SERC PD, Anti-Racist Collective (New Haven)
- ❑ **Fall 2021-Spring 2022**- SERC PD, ARC PD, districtwide-teacher collaboration sessions
- ❑ **Summer 2022**- Develop Summative Assessments

Student Perspective

[I feel like my teacher provided opportunities for me to share my perspective in the class.] **83%**

[The structure of this course allows me to engage in learning from my peers and sharing my knowledge with peers.] **78%**

[This course has helped me value AA/B identity and their contributions.] **81%**

[I enjoyed the first semester.] **71%**

[I feel safe and comfortable in sharing my opinion and asking questions in this class.] **75%**

[I feel like my peers are open minded in the class.] **68%**

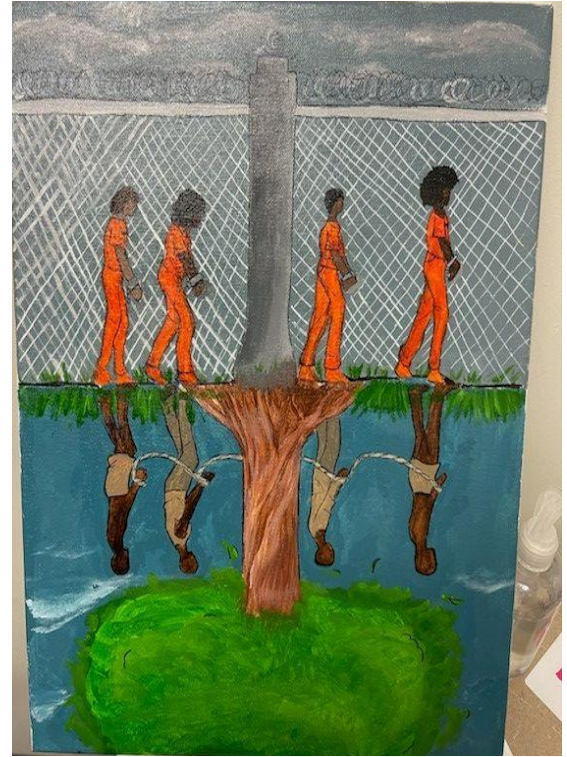
"Agree" and "strongly agree" percentage responses from district survey

Student Perspective

With few minority teachers, white educators likely leading CT's new Black and Latino classes

Connecticut students growing bonds through new Black and Latino studies course

- From The Hour
- Fox 61
- Student artwork, winner of December Sixth Competition



Teacher Perspective

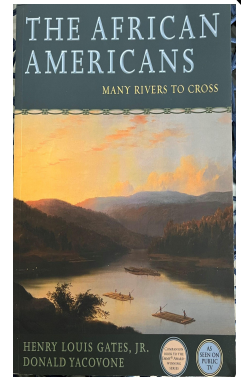
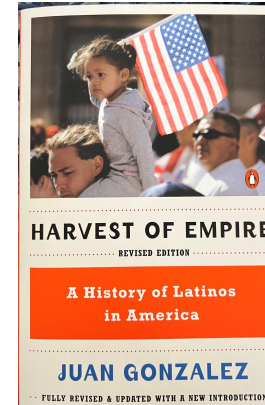


[Link to Video](#)

Student Work

Recommendations

- ☐ Resources for Teacher Preparation:
 - ☐ -Texts (background knowledge)
 - ☐ -[Teaching for Justice: Let's Talk](#)
 - ☐ -[Choices Program: Teaching about Controversial Issues](#)
- ☐ Make sure building administration is aware of the course overview and support teachers attending the quarterly SERC meetings (2 day workshops each quarter)



Recommendations Continued

- ❑ Communication with parents/community:
 - ❑ -upfront
 - ❑ -share the curriculum
 - ❑ -emphasize that it is a history class
 - ❑ -showcase and celebrate student work in the school and in the community

Consider: Purpose of the course vs. “mandated course”;
collect student data, monthly teacher check ins

Resources and Links:

- ❑ [CREC Teacher Experience Video](#)
- ❑ Teacher preparation for classroom expectations
 - ❑ - [Teaching for Justice: Let's Talk](#)
 - ❑ - [Choices Program: Teaching about Controversial Issues](#)
- ❑ Background text and video:
 - ❑ [Harvest of Empire](#) by Juan Gonzalez
 - ❑ [Documentary](#)
 - ❑ [The African Americans; Many Rivers to Cross](#) by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Donald Yacovone
 - ❑ [Documentary](#)
- ❑ [Curriculum Document](#)

Reach out to Maryam Wardak with any questions mwardak@crec.org