

GONE IN 6 SECONDS



MARK SIMPSON is co-founder of Black History Studies Ltd, and the course taking Britain by storm. **Janelle Oswald** took a minute of his time.

What inspired you to set up Black History Studies Ltd?

I launched Black History Studies Ltd with my wife Charmaine and renowned historian and author Robin Walker, because we noticed that our community wanted to learn about their history but there was no real outlet other than the mainstream Egyptology. As great as the ancient Egyptians were, there is so much more to our history than just Egypt!

How does it differ from other black history courses?

Our mission statement is: "Educating the community to educate themselves." What makes us different from other courses is that we offer a wide range of subjects dealing with not just history, but also political science, sociology, psychology etc.

What can people expect?

People can expect well structured courses, presentations and organised tours that are designed to invoke food for thought and discussion. A lot of our pupils have told us that they did not expect so much information, especially from our tours, which has really opened their eyes about black British history.

Who can attend the course?

All are welcome to attend our course, as we believe that all should know our history. We want to erase the negative picture that has been painted about 'us' by mainstream historians, media and people of power.

They say the best way to keep the black race down is to put key information in a book. Is this true?

Yes! So much of our history is hidden within books that are out of circulation and too expensive to purchase. Plus, black folk don't dedicate enough personal time for reading.

I strongly believe that everyone should allocate time for reading instead of watching foolishness on the TV. So, no excuses - make time to read for the betterment of yourself and those around you.

What are some of the best-kept secrets of black history?

Endless people think that Cristobal Colon, aka Christopher Columbus, discovered the Americas, when in truth Africans travelled to the Americas over 400 years before Cristobal did.

Mainstream scholars also like to credit the ancient Greek Hippocrates as the founder of medicine, when in truth Hippocrates himself credits Imhotep as the father of medicine. Imhotep was around at least 4000 years before Hippocrates. I could go on and on, the truth has never been told!

What are some of the worst lies?

Worst lie is that black people were civilised by the Europeans when they first came to Africa.

Why is Egypt always separated from the rest of Africa?

The ancient Egyptian civilisation was so great that everybody wants to take some of the credit, which is why they are trying to paint the picture that the ancient Egyptians were not black.