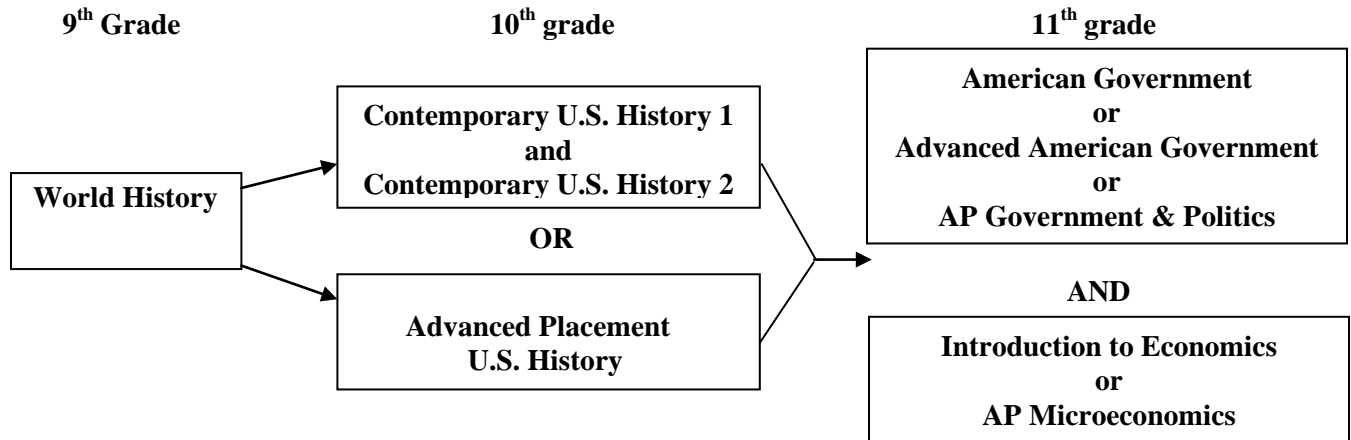


SOCIAL STUDIES

COURSE SELECTIONS

SEQUENCE OF REQUIRED COURSES:



ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

0.5 credit, grades 11-12

An emphasis will be placed upon the study of the abnormal personality. The goals of the course will include: to develop in students a better understanding of the abnormal and complex types of behavior evidenced among members of various societies and to guide the student in learning methods to relate theories, concepts, and research findings to one's own potential in living more effectively with oneself and others. To attain these educational ends, students will be focusing their attention on contemporary social trends and phenomena and their relationship to an individual's mental health and on a critical examination of the structure of the human psyche in familiarizing themselves with different psychoanalytic theories including those of Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, to better realize how the personality functions both consciously and unconsciously.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

0.5 credit, grade 11 (REQUIRED)

This is a survey course dealing with national, state and local government, focusing on the executive, legislative and judicial branch of each. Student units will include the U.S. Constitution and periodic consideration of current political/social events.

ADVANCED AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

0.5 credit, grade 11

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation. This is a survey course in American government concentrating on student writing skills, emphasizing analytical thinking skills and the application of the students' government knowledge to real life situations, including the study of case studies. Areas studied will include U.S. government institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U. S. political reality. Accelerated reading lists and writing demands will be utilized.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

1.5 credits, grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Instructor approval. AP European History is a challenging three term course. The purpose of this course is to increase students' understanding and appreciation of European history while helping students succeed on the AP European history exam. The AP European history course will help students develop and understand the main themes in modern European history including political and diplomatic, intellectual and cultural, and social and economic history from the Renaissance through the 21st century.

AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1.0 credit, grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Application Process. AP Government and Politics will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course will include both a study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and an analysis of specific examples. Students will develop familiarity with the various institutions, groups,

beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics, as well as explore theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors. The course will involve expository, analytical, and argumentative writing; students will be expected to engage in outside readings selected from a reading list in addition to day to day class assignments. AP Government & Politics will provide a rigorous study of the American political system and should be selected by students eager to engage in such a study. (This class fulfills the 11th grade graduation requirement and may also be taken as an elective in 12th grade)

AP MACROECONOMICS

0.5 credit, grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Economics or AP Microeconomics. AP Microeconomics is a course designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of the principles of economics in examining aggregate economic behavior. Students taking the course can expect to learn how the measures of economic performance, such as GDP, inflation and unemployment, are constructed and how to apply them to evaluate the macroeconomic conditions of an economy. Students will also learn the basic analytical tools of macroeconomics, primarily the aggregate demand and aggregate supply model and its application in the analysis and determination of national income as well as evaluating the effectiveness of fiscal policy and monetary policy in promoting economic growth and stability. Recognizing the global nature of economics, students will also have ample opportunities to examine the impact of international trade and international finance on national economies. Various economic schools of thought are introduced as solutions to economic problems are considered.

AP MICROECONOMICS

0.5 credit, grades 11-12 (This course will fulfill the .5 credit economics requirement.)

Prerequisite: Social Studies teacher signature. The purpose of an AP course in microeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets and includes the study of factor markets and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy.

AP PSYCHOLOGY

0.5 CREDIT, GRADES 11-12

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology, Part 1 or Departmental approval. The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

1.5 credits, grades 10-12

Prerequisite: Application Process. This course will give students an analytical perspective on the history of the United States. It will include both a study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. History and an analysis of specific examples. Students will develop familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. History, as well as explore theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors. The course will involve expository, analytical, and argumentative writing; students will be expected to engage in outside readings selected from a reading list in addition to day to day class assignments. AP U.S. History will provide a rigorous study of the American political system and should be selected by students eager to engage in such a study. In addition, the course will provide detailed preparation for the Advanced Placement exam which students may take in order to receive college credits. (This class fulfills the 10th grade graduation requirement and may also be taken as an elective in the 11th or 12th grade).

AP WORLD HISTORY

1.5 credits, grades 10-12

Prerequisite: Instructor approval. AP World History is a challenging three term course that is structured around the investigation of selected themes and key concepts covering distinct chronological periods. AP World History is equivalent to an introductory college survey course. The course has a three-fold purpose. First, it is designed to prepare students for successful placement into higher-level college and university history courses. Second, it is designed to develop skills of analysis and thinking in order to prepare students for success in the 21st century. Finally, it will help students build a respect and interest in world history and cultures. Students will demonstrate mastery of the course goals by taking part in the College Board AP World History exam in May. This course may, in the future, be used to fulfill the social studies world history requirement.

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL PROBLEMS

0.5 credit, grades 10-12

This course is designed as a discussion class. It offers an introduction to some of the most pressing social problems of today. Students will examine such typically discussed problems as family related crises, social deviance, juvenile delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse and societal discrimination as they affect the student in relating to others and the culture within which they live.

CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES HISTORY 1

0.5 credit, grade 10 (REQUIRED)

This course is designed to help students understand the development of the United States from 1870 to 1945. It begins with the growth of an industrial, urban, and global America and the Spanish American War. The course continues into the progressive era of Teddy Roosevelt. The events leading up to World War I are studied, the United State's role in the war and the subsequent search for peace. Further studies include the 1920's, the Great Depression of the 1930's, World War II, Roosevelt's handling of the Second World War, and Truman's decision to drop the Atomic bomb.

CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES HISTORY 2

0.5 credit, grade 10 (REQUIRED)

Contemporary United States History 2 focuses on the post-World War II era 1945 to present. Major topics include the Cold War, the Korean Conflict, the Red Scare, the era of Camelot, Cuban Missile Crisis, the Kennedy assassination, Lyndon Johnson's Great Society, the Civil Rights Movement, the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, America's role in Vietnam, the Nixon administration, Watergate, Gerald Ford and the end of the Vietnam War, the feminist movement of the 1970's, Jimmy Carter and the energy crisis, the Reagan era, the fall of the Soviet Union, the end of the Cold War, Bill Clinton and America's role as the dominant super power, and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

CURRENT GLOBAL ISSUES

0.5 credit, grade 12

This course is an elective designed for seniors who have completed all Social Studies requirements. The course will provide an opportunity for students to explore current, relevant, global issues that have social, political, economic, military and technological implications for our world and community. Students and instructors will jointly develop specific units of study with an emphasis on individual/group research and presentation. Sample units might include U.S. policy in the Balkans, international terrorism, espionage, drug trade, economic interdependence among nations, etc. The course will allow students to pursue their own self-interests and to better understand global and cross-national issues.

HISTORY OF ETHNIC AND GENDER STUDIES

0.5 credit, grades 10-12

This course offers students an opportunity to explore the ways that society looks at men and women. It will focus on the representation of the sexes in movies, on television, in text, and through music. Other topics include a "historical" walk through time. An attempt will be made to identify myths and empower individuals to overcome stereotypes. The students will engage in various historical perspectives via primary source documents, texts, writings, and social medias. The course will incorporate intensive writing and a culminating research project.

HISTORY OF WORLD RELIGIONS

0.5 credit, grades 10-12

Students examine major world religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism. Students examine the concept of faith and the role faith plays in all religions. Students recognize common stereotypes associated with different world religions. Within each religion, students examine the sacred texts, houses of worship and moral code. Students examine how women are viewed within each religion. Students explore different rituals associated with each religion, including marriage, death and rights of passage rituals. Students differentiate between how each religion is practiced in its place of origin and how it is practiced in the United States. Students will listen to speakers from each religion and ask questions to clarify their understanding of the religion. In writing, students reflect on what they learned from the speaker. Students work in small groups on presentations about different religions.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

0.5 credit, grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Application. This course is designed for the student in grades 11-12 who desire a more intensive study in a particular discipline than the general curriculum provides. Before the term begins, each student must submit in triplicate, a work-study plan for the term signed by his/her parents/guardian. Upon approval, copies will be held by the student, the teacher and their counselor. Weekly student-teacher conferences will be arranged to monitor the student's progress. The final project may be evaluated by the entire department before a grade is granted.

INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

0.5 credit, grade 11 (REQUIRED)

This basic introduction to the study of economics will involve a survey of the following areas of economics: consumerism, business organizations, economic philosophy, role of government in the economy, money and banking and international trade.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY, Part 1

0.5 credit, grades 9-12

This course is an introduction to the study and field of psychology. Students will be presented a variety of different ideas, theories and research studies from both past and present. The course aims to develop a curiosity for further study and to assist the student in viewing human behavior patterns in a scientific manner. Topics covered in part 1 include: 1) what is psychology, 2) the biology of the mind, 3) nature/nurture and human diversity, and 4) developmental psychology.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY, Part 2

0.5 credit, grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology, Part 1. This course is an introduction to the study and field of psychology. Students will be presented a variety of different ideas, theories and research studies from both past and present. The course aims to develop a curiosity for further study and to assist the student in viewing human behavior patterns in a scientific manner. Topics covered in part 2 include: 1) consciousness and the mind, 2) sensation and perception, 3) learning and memory, and 4) thinking, language, and intelligence.

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

0.5 credit, grades 10-12

Sociology is the study of human relationships. The intent of this course is to introduce the basics of sociology through the student of concepts, principles, and sociological theories. The students will think like sociologists, enabling them to view their own lives within a global social and historical context. The students will be exposed to a wide variety of case studies from cross-cultural and historical sources.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

0.5 - 1.0 credit, grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Application process. Student Council is designed as a center for the communication of ideas of students, faculty, administration and the community. Membership in council requires a student to have a desire to help improve his/her school environment through special activities sponsored by the council. Projects include the study of problems within the school, service projects when council is called upon to help in activities such as curriculum programs, sporting events, etc. Council is responsible for the yearly homecoming activities each fall. Due to the nature of council activities, membership is limited to students who can commit themselves to occasional after school and evening hours.

MONEY AND INVESTMENTS

One term, 0.5 credit, grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Economics. This course will introduce the student to the world of investments and to everyday economic issues. Areas covered will be personal record keeping, taxes, risk management, real estate, securities, and retirement planning.

TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE

0.5 credit, grades 10-12

This course is an exploration of the 20th century through the lens of American popular culture. We will explore American history through a focus upon the major areas in mass entertainment: sports & games, fashion, food & drink, motion pictures, radio, music, television and the “the way we live”. Through readings, videos, and discussion, we will consider how each of these entities has both shaped and been shaped by critical developments of modern American history.

WORLD HISTORY

1.0 credit, grade 9 (REQUIRED)

World History focuses on the interaction between diverse human societies primarily over the past 1,500 years. The objective is for students to develop a greater comparative understanding of the ways in which human groups have come into contact and interacted with one another, including systems of communication, migration, commercial exchange, conquest, and cultural diffusion. The course will focus heavily on Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Europe and North America. This class provides a global perspective on the past. Understanding a global perspective has become an essential tool of citizenship. We will examine the development of political, social, economic, and cultural traditions that have shaped the world since the fall of the Roman Empire.