

# **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

<u><b>Course</b></u>	<u><b>Recommended Grade</b></u>	<u><b>Prerequisites</b></u>
Geography & History of the World	9	None
Geography & History of the World Honors	9	Recommended A or B in 8th Grade Social Studies
World History & Civilization	10-12	None
World History AP	10-12	Recommended A or B in GHW or World History
Human Geography AP	10-12	Recommended A or B in GHW or World History
US History	11	None
US History AP	11	Recommended Honors English and Honors GHW
Economics	12	None
Macroeconomics AP	12	None
US Government	12	None
US Government Honors (We the People)	12	Must complete application
US Government AP	12	None
Comparative Government and Politics AP	12	None
Psychology	11-12	None
Psychology AP	11-12	None
Sociology	10-12	None
Indiana Studies	10-12	None
Ethnic Studies	10-12	None
European History AP	11-12	None
Law Education	11-12	None

## **Geography and History of the World**

2 Semesters / 2 Credits

Grade 9

Prerequisite - None

This two-semester course will serve as the standard social studies requirement for freshmen. Students will use geographical skills and historical concepts to deepen their understanding of global themes. Students will use research tools to ask questions and acquire relevant information. They will use primary and secondary sources, produce maps, timelines, and other graphic representations to interpret geographic and historical problems and events. Key concepts include change over time, cultural landscape, diffusion, human-environment interactions, physical systems, and spatial organization and variation.

## **Geography and History of the World Honors**

2 Semesters / 2 Credits

Grade 9

Prerequisite – Recommended A or B in 8 grade Social Studies

This two-semester course will serve as an introduction to Advanced Placement social studies courses for freshmen. This course demands the academic excellence expected from an Advanced Placement course, including the development of advanced study skills and rigorous amounts of out of school work. Students should be prepared to make a serious commitment of time and energy to make the most of the course. In the class, students will use geographical skills and historical concepts to deepen their understanding of global themes. Students will develop their non-fiction literacy skills by analyzing primary and secondary sources. Students will also collaboratively use research tools to ask questions and acquire relevant information. They will produce maps, timelines, and other graphic representations to interpret geographic and historical problems and events. Key

concepts include change over time, cultural landscape, diffusion, human-environment interactions, physical systems, and spatial organization and variation.

2 Semesters / 2 Credits

### **World History and Civilization**

Grade 10-12

Prerequisite - None

World History is a year-long course that explores major historical events/perspectives, political systems of the world, changing geographic boundaries, the impact of colonialism, industrialization, and political revolutions/independence, cause/effects of wars, global dominance and globalization. This course will provide students with an overview of the events and individuals who have shaped our world as we know it today. Students will use a variety of methods that include primary/secondary sources, group/individual project-based learning activities, small group cooperative learning activities, internet-based activities, guided learning that leads to independent learning, and Canvas activities. Students will be exposed to multiple perspectives, ideas and approaches. This course requires students to be willing to be actively engaged in all activities.

### **World History Modern Advanced Placement**

2 Semesters / 2 Credits

Grade 10-12

Prerequisite – None (Geography History of the World Honors and/or English 9 Honors recommended)

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university world history course. According to the College Board, AP World History Modern students “investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in historical periods from approximately 1200 CE to the present.” Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; making historical comparisons; utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time; and developing historical arguments. In addition to utilizing the listed skills, students are required to write three long essays per quarter in preparation for their AP course exam. Students should anticipate 5-7 hours of homework per week consisting mostly of reading and notes. Students are expected to come prepared to class sessions with all work completed. Students not willing to meet the work requirements are strongly discouraged from signing up for this course. Students signing up for this class are required to take the AP exam in May to receive college credit.

### **United States History**

2 Semesters / 2 Credits

Grade 11

Prerequisite - None

United States History is a required two-semester course designed for all juniors. US History will expand upon concepts learned in prior American History courses and emphasize national development from the Civil War period through the twenty-first century. Students will learn through a variety of sources including primary sources and secondary sources, historical and contemporary sources, internet activities, music, film, and research. Students will study common themes throughout America's history, key events and people, various movements, and how all related to life in the United States and in Indiana. The class will require students to read and develop note-taking skills. The course is primarily structured to evaluate individual performance. Occasional partner or group projects will be utilized in order to promote teamwork and communication skills.

### **United States History Advanced Placement**

2 Semesters / 2 Credits

Grade 11- Fulfills U.S. History Requirement

Prerequisite – None (Honors Geography and History of the World and/or Honors English recommended)

This course is designed for Franklin Central students looking to challenge themselves beyond the required U. S. History class. This year-long class begins with Period 1 (1491-1607) and explores United States History through 9 Periods provided by the College Board. Students signing up for AP U.S. History should possess strong reading, writing, critical thinking, and discussion abilities. Students should expect 5-7 hours of homework per week for this course, the majority of which will involve reading and note-taking. Students not willing to meet the reading requirements are strongly discouraged from APUSH. Students signing up for this class are required to take the AP exam in May for a chance to earn college credit.

### **United States Government**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grade 12

Prerequisite - None

This course, required of all seniors, will include an investigation of the mechanics and operation of the various political institutions of our nation. The role of citizens in their government, as well as the Constitution, will be the major focus of the course while other areas such as history, geography, economics, and cultures will play a supporting role. This course is the culmination of the thinking, inquiry and research, and participation skill developed throughout the social studies curriculum. Political participation, the role of the courts, the Presidency, the Congress, and civil liberties are major units of study. A number of learn-and-do or learn-by-doing activities such as Mock Congress are part of the class. Also included are small group cooperative learning activities, internet learning, and Canvas activities. Students will be exposed to all levels of society in an effort to properly prepare them for the social realities of the modern political world.

### **United States Government Honors (We the People)**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grade 12

Prerequisite – Application must be completed

US Government Honors follows the “We the People”: The Citizen and the Constitution curriculum, and it is a one-semester honors course, offered during the fall, that counts towards the required Government credit; it is intended for college-bound students who have a passion for politics, history, debate, discussion, speech, philosophy, hands-on-learning, and civics. The course introduces students to a study of constitutional law in the United States of America. Its intent and purpose is to provide students with an understanding of how the Constitution came into existence, why it took the form it did, and how it has functioned over the past two hundred years. The Center for Civic Education hosts regional, state, and national competitions based on the course curriculum, and it is required for students to take part, participate, and compete in the competitions, and this aspect of the course will require students to dedicate time outside of class to the course. Because space is limited, teacher selection through an application process is required.

REQUIRED APPLICATION

### **Economics**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grade 12

Prerequisite - None

This course, required of all seniors, is designed to stimulate the students' awareness of, and continuing interest in, economics. Economics is the study of decision making, and an understanding of economic principles will enable students to think intelligently and analytically relative to a variety of modern-day economic problems. Individual units apply this information to a variety of policy problems such as poverty, taxes, pollution, economic growth, money/banking, gross domestic product, as well as prices and interest rate changes. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of economic markets, and demonstrate this by means of a special project. Other course projects help students develop skills in the areas of Personal Finance, Media Literacy, Global Thinking and Project Planning.

### **Macroeconomics Advanced Placement**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grade 12 – Fulfills Economics requirement

Prerequisite – None, Recommended B or better in Algebra

This one-semester course is a continuation of the college-level microeconomics course (not offered), and is recommended to highly motivated students who plan to major in economics or business in college. All materials used in this course are from universities throughout the country, as are the exams. Completion of Algebra II is recommended. An understanding of economics will enable students to master a few basic economic problems as a means of thinking intelligently and analytically relative to a variety of policy problems such as aggregate demand/supply, economic growth, deficits, debts, interest rates, loans, and international trade. Students should expect 5-6 hours of homework per week for this course, the majority of which will involve college-level reading and practice problems. Students signing up for this class are required to take the AP exam in May.

### **United States Government Advanced Placement**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grade 12 – Fulfills U. S. Government Requirement

Prerequisite – None, Recommended having taken AP US History or a B or better in US History.

This course is intended for motivated, hard-working, college-bound seniors. This course is a comprehensive study of American government. It will prepare students for the rigors of the college classroom as well as anticipated success on the College Board's Advanced Placement U. S. Government and Politics exam. Students will develop college-level reading, writing, critical

thinking, discussion, and note-taking skills. Therefore only those seniors who will remain serious and focused are encouraged to take this challenging yet rewarding course. Students signing up for this class are required to take the AP exam in May.

### **Comparative Government and Politics Advanced Placement**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grade 12 – Elective Credit; Does Not Fulfill U. S. Government Requirement

Prerequisite – Recommended college-level reading and writing skills

One of the best ways to develop a deeper understanding of how and why American government operates is to compare our system to political systems around the world. This course is intended for motivated, hard-working, highly-motivated, college-bound seniors. This course is a comprehensive study of comparing different governmental and political systems around the world, focusing on Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria. It will prepare students for the rigors of the college classroom as well as anticipated success on the College Board's Advanced Placement U. S. Comparative Government and Politics Exam. Students will develop college-level reading, writing, critical thinking, discussion, and note-taking skills. Therefore only those seniors who will remain serious and focused are encouraged to take this challenging yet rewarding course. Students signing up for this class are required to take the AP exam in May.

### **Psychology**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite-None

This course will provide the students the opportunity to examine psychology as the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. The students will study the history and background of psychology, psychological research methods, the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, human development, cognition, personality, abnormal psychology, and the socio-cultural bases of behavior. Students will gain an understanding of the behaviors of themselves and others. This course is challenging and utilizes a variety of activities that require and emphasize critical thinking skills. The class is designed to prepare students for entry-level college psychology courses.

### **Psychology Advanced Placement**

2 Semesters / 2 Credits

Grade: 11-12

Prerequisite-None

AP Psychology is based on content established by the AP College Board and is designed to be equivalent to an introductory college course. This year-long course will introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes and will prepare students for success on the AP Psychology Exam. Topics include: (1) History and Approaches, (2) Research Methods, (3) Biological Bases of Behavior, (4) Sensation and Perception, (5) States of Consciousness, (6) Learning, (7) Cognition, (8) Motivation and Emotion, (9) Development Psychology, (10) Personality, (11) Testing and Individual Differences, (12) Abnormal Psychology, (13) Treatment of Abnormal Behavior, and (14) Social Psychology. Students signing up for this class should possess strong reading, writing, critical thinking, and discussion abilities. Students should expect several hours of reading and homework per week for this course. It is expected that students are prepared to accept the responsibility of a college-level course. Students signing up for this class are required to take the AP Exam in May.

### **Sociology**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grades 10-12

Prerequisite: None

This one-semester course is an introduction for the college-bound student to the theories and concepts of sociology, the study of groups. This class illustrates how the groups to which you belong (by choice or "assignment") have a profound influence on the way you think, feel, and act. Sociology looks at groups rather than individuals. Major themes include culture, socialization, race and ethnicity, deviance and social control, crime and punishment, the inequities of age, gender, and social class, the teen years and the social agents of religion, education and the family. Coursework includes readings from a variety of sources and viewpoints, small and large group discussions, as well as several mini-projects.

### **Human Geography Advanced Placement**

2 Semesters / 2 Credits

Grade 10-12

Prerequisite - None, Recommend B or better in Geography and History of the World or World History

To truly understand the world today, it must be viewed within a spatial context, or the “where and why things occur.” Human geography is the study of where humans and their activities and institutions such as ethnic groups, cities, and industries are located and why they are there. Human geographers also study the interactions of humans with their environment and draw on some basic elements of physical geography. The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth’s surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. This is a full year, college level geography course. This course is recommended to seniors and juniors with an interest in geography and society, and is open to highly motivated sophomores and freshmen as well. Students should expect 4-6 hours of homework each week, including college level readings and writing. This course is highly project-oriented and will require students to collaborate with each other on a regular basis. Students signing up for this course are required to take the AP exam in May. AP Human Geography students have an opportunity to apply their learning to the real world through a community service project over the course of the year, and can earn an additional “AP with WE Service” student recognition on their College Board score reports and transcripts!

[Check out our course spotlight!](#)

## **Indiana Studies**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grades 10-12  
Prerequisite: None

Indiana has played a vital role in the development of our nation’s history, economy, government and culture. This course highlights the Hoosier people, places, culture and events, past and present. It is designed for students looking for an opportunity to study Indiana history with a deeper, more focused approach through reading, writing, discussion, and mini-projects. Topics covered include: Indiana geography, native peoples, immigration, economics, politics, culture (art, literature and music), and the role of conflict in shaping Indiana’s history, as well as the discussion of current topics in Indiana. Learn more about the accomplishments of our state and its people!

## **Ethnic Studies**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grades 10-12  
Prerequisite: None

Ethnic Studies provides opportunities to broaden students' perspectives concerning lifestyles and cultural patterns of ethnic groups in the United States. This course will focus on the experiences of Native Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, and Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders. We will examine the historical and contemporary experiences of aforementioned groups primarily through project based learning, and cooperative group activities. Students will have a community service component to complete for this course. In addition, this course may also include analysis of the political impact of ethnic diversity in the United States.

## **AP European History**

2 Semesters / 2 Credits

Grades 11-12  
Prerequisite: None

AP European History explores the impact of Europe from the 1200s to modern day through readings, essays, primary sources, and projects. This course is a college level so students should be prepared for heavy reading and writing in the class. This course is recommended for juniors and seniors, as an elective, who are prepared for nightly homework from a textbook in addition to other assignments. Registration for this course requires students to take the A.P. European History exam in May for an attempt at college credit.

## **Law Education**

1 Semester / 1 Credit

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Law Education will introduce students to the complex topic of the law and how society interacts with the law. This course will challenge students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to remedy interpersonal conflict as well as expose them to how they fit within the structure of the law. Law Education will require students to engage in independent research, develop cooperative skills by working with their peers and people who they disagree with, and navigate the unique task of reading court opinions and legal documents. This will be accomplished through investigative research projects, mock trials, and guest speaker presentations, among other interactive activities. This course will focus primarily on constitutional law while also incorporating criminal law, family law, torts/civil law, and contemporary legal issues/controversies. Students who are not willing to meet the rigor of the required reading, writing, and speaking skills are discouraged from enrolling.