

# SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

9th Grade Options	<p>Required Course : U.S. History or U.S. History-Single Gender or U.S. History Honors or Integrated History/English 9</p> <p>Elective Options : American History Through Music, Colorado History, Current Events, International Relations, Intro to Human Behavior,</p>
10th Grade Options	<p>Required Course : World Geography and Civilization or World Geography and Civilizations Honors</p> <p>Elective Options : American History Through Music, Colorado History, Comparative World Religions, Current Events, History of Automobiles in American History, International Relations, Intro to Human Behavior, Sociology,</p> <p>A.P. Option : Beginning 2019/2020 A.P. Human Geography</p>
11th Grade Options	<p>Required Courses : Western Civilization I and II</p> <p>Elective Options : American History Through Music, Comparative World Religions, Film Studies Humanities: Defining Humanity, Film Studies Humanities: Social Change, History of Automobiles in American History, International Relations, Law, Philosophy, PsycHistory, Psychology, Sociology, Supreme Court and the Bill of Rights,</p> <p>A.P. Options : A.P. American Government, A.P. Economics, A.P. Psychology and Beginning 2019/2020 A.P. Human Geography</p>
12th Grade Options	<p>Required Courses : Government or A.P. Government and Economics or A.P. Economics</p> <p>Elective Options : American History Through Music, Comparative World Religions, Film Studies Humanities: Defining Humanity, Film Studies Humanities: Social Change, History of Automobiles in American History, International Relations, Law, Philosophy, PsycHistory, Psychology, Senior Seminar , Sociology, Supreme Court and the Bill of Rights</p> <p>A.P. Options : A.P. U.S. History, A.P. American Government, A.P. Economics, A.P. Psychology</p>

## SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT HONORS PROGRAM

The Social Studies Honors Program is designed for those students who wish to choose a more rigorous academic experience and for those who demonstrate advanced academic skills. Honors courses are broader in scope and depth than traditional academic classes and often require more preparation and work out of class. Examinations in the honors program help prepare students to enter the Advanced Placement courses with experience in A.P. testing methods and strategies. The Honors program starts with United States History S1 through an admissions process that is undertaken during the spring semester of the student's eighth grade year. An audition reading examination, standardized test scores, teacher-counselor recommendations, and past performance in eighth grade social studies are all considered important parts of the selection requirement. Students who wish to be considered during subsequent semesters may apply for admission. Those students will be considered based on teacher evaluation of their performance in our program. Some

students may also be required to take a writing sample administered by the Social Studies Department and graded by the honors program teachers. All honors students are required to do at least “B” work in order to continue in the program.

The Social Studies Department Honors Program is as follows:

- 9th U. S. History-Honors S1 and S2
- 10th World Geography and Civilizations-Honors S1 & S2
- 11th AP American Government, AP Economics, or AP Psychology might be options
- 12th AP US History, AP American Government, AP Economics, or AP Psychology might be options

## **FRESHMAN COURSES**

### **U. S. HISTORY**

MTWRF Semester 1 & 2 9  
Credit: 5 hours per semester  
Prerequisite: None

In alignment with district and state standards, this required course focuses on the history of the United States from the late 19th century through contemporary times. Students will evaluate the reliability of information received from various sources and expand upon their critical thinking skills. They will develop oral and written arguments to take and defend positions related to historical issues. The following eras will be taught:

Emergence of the U.S. as a World Power, 1890-1920  
The 1920s – Prosperity and Problems  
Depression and New Deal, 1929-1941  
WWII and Postwar U.S., 1939-1961  
Later Cold War, 1961-1991  
Challenges of the 21st Century, 1991-Present.

#### **Single-gender U.S. History offering:**

This class focuses on strengths of one gender, based on research, books, articles, and teacher/student feedback. Students have found success with less distractions, higher grades, and improved skills. It is recommended to take this course all year to have the best impact.

### **INTEGRATED HISTORY/ENGLISH 9**

MTWRF Semester 1 & 2 9  
Credit: 10 hours per semester (this course is taught in a 2-hour block)  
Note: Course is limited to the first 50 students who sign up.

American Humanities is a year-long course integrating American history and American literature. The course focuses on 1900 through the 2000s. Students learn critical thinking skills necessary to understand history and language arts as well as skills that expand their reading and writing abilities. A focus of the class is to have students realize that what we see, think, draw, write or compose reflects the values and struggles of Americans at any given time and gives meaning to what it means to be an American. This class meets in a daily two-hour block and satisfies the requirements for both freshmen history and language arts (20 credits). Enrollment is limited.

### **U. S. HISTORY: HONORS**

MTWRF Semester 1 & 2 9  
Credit: 5 hours per semester  
Prerequisite: Audition examination, past performance in Social Studies classes, teacher recommendation.

This course deals with the same topics as U.S History S1 and S2, but will be differentiated by a more in-depth analysis of the subject matter. Participation in class discussions is expected. Students will be required to do more outside reading and write significantly more than students in the non-honors course

## **SOPHOMORE COURSES**

### **WORLD GEOGRAPHY & CIVILIZATIONS**

MWF Semester 1 & 2 10  
Credit: 3 hours per semester  
Prerequisite: None

This yearlong course examines issues related to the development of civilizations and their legacies, population, conflict and cooperation, the environment, the SEP model, the development of geography, the impacts of geography and civilization upon one another, imperialism and globalization. Regions of focus will include the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, South Asia and East Asia.

### **WORLD GEOGRAPHY AND CIVILIZATIONS HONORS**

MWF Semester 1 & 2 10  
Credit: 3 hours per semester  
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This yearlong course deals with the same topics as World Geography and Civilizations S1 and S2, but will be differentiated from it by a more in-depth analysis of the course's essential questions. Participation in class discussions is expected. Students will be required to do more outside reading and write significantly more than students in the non-honors course.

## **JUNIOR COURSES**

### **WESTERN CIVILIZATION I**

MWF Semester 1 11  
Credit: 3 hours per semester  
Prerequisite: World Geography & Civilizations

This course traces European civilization from the Greeks through the Renaissance and Reformation. It asks two essential questions: what are the legacies of the various civilizations, and in what ways were the lives of the people of those civilizations similar to and different from the lives of modern Americans? Students are expected to read primary and/or secondary sources in preparation for each class period, and an emphasis is placed upon developing critical thinking skills.

### **WESTERN CIVILIZATION II**

MWF Semester 2 11  
Credit: 3 hours per semester  
Prerequisite: Western Civilization I

This course traces European civilization from the Age of Absolutism to the present day. It asks two essential questions: what are the legacies of the various civilizations and in what ways were the lives of the people of those civilizations similar to and different from the lives of modern Americans? Students are expected to read primary and/or secondary sources in preparation for each class period, and an emphasis is placed upon developing critical thinking skills.

## **SENIOR COURSES**

### **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

MWF Semester 1 or 2 12  
Credit: 3 hours per semester  
Prerequisite: None

The guiding theme of the course is to help students understand the ways they can be lifelong participants in the political system by being critically informed consumers of political information. To accomplish this, goal, the course focuses on the following topics:

- the purposes of government
- the U.S. Constitution as a living document
- the structure and organization of federal and state governments
- the role of the linkage institutions (political parties, interest groups, and media)
- the electoral process
- the role and rights of individuals
- current political issues and events

This course meets the state civics standards.

### **ECONOMICS**

TR	Semester 1 or 2	12
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	None

The guiding theme of the course is to help students understand the ways they can be lifelong participants in the economic system by being critically informed consumers of economic information. This course is designed to present an overview of the nature and practice of American economics. Students will examine the foundational concepts of modern economic theory, including microeconomics and macroeconomics. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the world around them while becoming better decision-makers, business participants, and voters. In light of this goal, the course will focus on the fundamental motivations of and assumptions made by economists, the methods used by economists, and the economic perspective on choices (made by individuals, firms or governments) and their consequences.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES**

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

MWF	Semester 1 & 2	11, 12
	Credit:	3 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	Application Process
	Fee:	Textbook purchase required

**\*Fulfills the American Government Requirement for graduation**

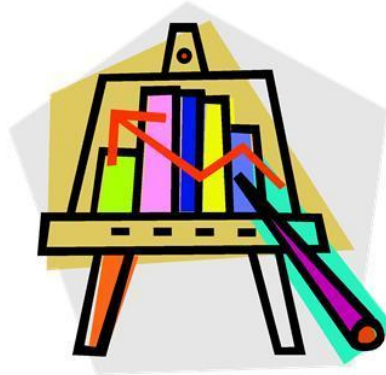
This is a year-long college level course that introduces students to the basic concepts of government, develops their understanding of the framework of American government and politics, and prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam. The major units of study include an introduction to politics, constitutional philosophies and foundations, political beliefs and behaviors of individuals, the interactions of the linkage institutions (political parties, interest groups, and the media), the election cycle, the three branches of government, civil liberties and civil rights, and public policy. In addition, students will focus on the game of politics as it is played at the national, state, and local levels. In May, the students will be expected to take the College Board Advanced Placement Exam in American Government. A successful score on this exam may enable the student to receive college credit and/or advanced standing in the college of his/her choice, depending on that college's acceptance of the A. P. program. Student preparation and participation is required. The course meets state civics standards

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT ECONOMICS

TR	Semester 1 & 2	12
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	Application Process (Math and Social Studies)
	Fee:	Textbook purchase required <b>* Fulfills the Economics requirement for graduation</b>

This college level course is a study of how individuals, firms, and organizational structures make economic decisions. Demand and supply analysis will be developed to demonstrate how market prices are determined; how they determine an economy's allocative mix of goods and services and factors of production; and how goods and services are distributed throughout the economy. Students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of economic decision-makers by employing concepts of efficiency and equity, and will also analyze and evaluate the effects of government intervention. In May, students will be expected to take the College Board Advanced Placement Exam in Microeconomics. A successful score on this exam may enable the student to receive advanced standing at the college of his/her college's acceptance of the A.P. program.

college credit and/or  
choice, depending on that



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (Course will be offered 2019-2020 and beyond)

MWF	Semester 1 & 2	10, 11
	Credit:	3 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	Application Process
	Fees:	Textbook purchase required <b>* Fulfills the World Geography and Civilizations requirement for graduation</b>

This college level course explores the ways in which geography shapes every facet of how humans interact with each other and the physical environment. Geographic concepts emphasized throughout the course are location, space, scale, pattern, regionalization and place. Students will study the dynamics of human population growth and movement, patterns of culture, and economic patterns, especially urbanization. Students will have the opportunity to take the College Board Advanced Placement Exam in Human Geography in May. A successful score on this exam may enable the student to receive college credit, depending on that college's acceptance of the A.P. program.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY**

MTWF	Semester 1 & 2	11, 12
or	Credit:	4 hours per semester
MWRF	Prerequisite:	Application Process
	Fees:	Textbook purchase required

This college level course introduces students to the systematic study of human behavior and experience through the major perspectives in this field. Emphasis will be placed on the primary psychological perspectives (psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, neurobiological, and sociocultural). The course will include the following areas of study: learning, memory, motivation, emotion, biological basis of behavior, sensation, perception, consciousness, personality, development, intelligence, abnormal psychology and social psychology. Students will have the opportunity to take the College Board Advanced Placement Exam in Psychology in May. A successful score on this exam may enable the student to receive college credit and/or advanced standing at the college of his/her choice, depending on that college's acceptance of the A.P. program.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT U. S. HISTORY—S1, S2**

MTWF	Semester 1 & 2	12
	Credit:	4 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	Application Process
	Fee:	Textbook Purchase required

This college level course presents United States history from the colonial era through modern times. Political, diplomatic, economic, social, and intellectual developments will be explored through historical readings, primary source documents, lecture/discussion, and analysis of historical questions in objective and essay tests. Student participation in class dialogue is paramount. In May of each year, students will be expected to take the College Board Advanced Placement Exam in U.S. History. A successful score on this exam may enable the student to receive college credit and/or advanced standing at the college of his/her choice, depending on that college's acceptance of the A.P. program.

## **ELECTIVES**

**(Not all electives are offered each semester. Please check current registration materials.)**

### **AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH MUSIC**

TR	Semester 1 or 2	9-12
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	None

American History Through Music is designed to guide students in the examination of how American history and culture have influenced music, and conversely, been influenced by music. Using the SEP Model of Historical Study, students will be able to look at difference social, economic and political events and understand the relationship between song, lyric, musician and society. Using historical eras and themes to guide the course, students will be exposed to and gain an appreciation of many different musical genres and historical events. An emphasis will be placed 20th Century history and music.

## COLORADO HISTORY

TR	Semester 1 or 2	9, 10
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	None

This course is an exciting, interesting, and purpose-driven look at the Centennial State. Our journey begins with the lives of the first inhabitants of Colorado through present day events. Moreover, we will look at the geography of Colorado and determine how it has affected the growth and settlement of the state. Over the course of the semester, we will focus on the following topics: the mountain men, mining frontier, arrival of the railroad, cowboys, Native Americans, and farmers and the storied roles each have played in our state's history. Students will also embark on an independent study of a 20<sup>th</sup> century Colorado person/place/thing. The history of our state is brought to life through a field trip where students have the opportunity to embark upon a walking tour of LoDo in order to learn about early life in our capital city and experience some of our state's oldest landmarks.

## COMPARATIVE WORLD RELIGIONS

TR	Semester 1 or 2	10, 11, 12
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	None

Through the study of the central beliefs of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism, students will examine the increasing relevance of religion in their broadening global community. Students will analyze what religion is, how religion has impacted history, and the larger role religion plays in shaping interactions between individuals and nations. Scholarly articles and excerpts from various religious texts will be the basis of this discussion-centered course.

## CURRENT EVENTS

TR	Semester 1 or 2	9, 10
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	None

This course will examine the major events in the news occurring locally, nationally, and internationally that impact our lives today or could have a significant impact in the future. We will focus on major news topics as well as look at "hot topics" that develop over the course of the semester. The course will also study media bias and the various sources from which we derive our information about events going on around us and worldwide. Oral and written evaluations, as well as class participation, will play an important role in student grades.

## FILM STUDY HUMANITIES:

### SOCIAL CHANGE

TR	Semester 1	11, 12
	Credit:	4 hours (2 hrs. Social Studies and 2 hrs. Language Arts)
	Prerequisite:	None

This interdisciplinary humanities course is an academic examination of film as a medium which reflects and/or defines culture. The class will provide an in-depth look into how films subtly reveal the ideals and biases of society from the 1900's to the present. Students will be required to connect events and attitudes of society at a particular point in history with that of a film released at the same time. Students, upon successful completion of this course, will receive 2 Social Studies credits and 2 Language Arts credits.

## FILM STUDY HUMANITIES:

### DEFINING HUMANITY

TR	Semester 2	11, 12
	Credit:	4 hours (2 hrs. Social Studies and 2 hrs. Language Arts)
	Prerequisite:	None

This course has the same course structure as *Film Study Humanities: Social Change*, but offers a different selection of films. Students **do not** have to take *Film Study Humanities: Social Change* before taking this course.

## INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN BEHAVIOR

TR	Semester 1 or 2	9, 10
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	None

In this course, students will be introduced to concepts of psychology and sociology, with a focus on human behavior. Topics explored include: personality, sleep and dreams, drugs and addiction, socialization, and gender roles. Students will engage in a variety of class discussions and projects throughout the semester. Students interested in learning about themselves and the people around them are encouraged to take this course.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

TR	Semester 1 or 2	9, 10, 11, 12
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	None

This course provides an interactive environment as a means to learn more about the interactions between nation-states and other international players. Historical background and current issues will be explored. Readings, discussions and simulations allow for leadership development and will focus on such topics as: conflict, cooperation and power; development and the gap between rich and poor nation-states; foreign policy, security and defense, terrorism, global problems and possible solutions; and Human Rights issues.



## LAW

TR	Semester 1 or 2	11, 12
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	None
	Fees:	Field Trip Fee of \$11

There is an old saying in legal circles that “The average person who insists on handling his own legal problems has a fool for a client.” However, not all the problems that seem to be legal in nature require the services of a lawyer. This course is intended to be a practical course for all students to help them understand their rights and responsibilities under our legal system as well as being an introduction to criminal law in Colorado. This course will focus on five aspects of the justice system in the United States: the criminal mind and act, the police and the arrest procedure, the courts and criminal justice procedure, the rights of the accused, and the system and method of punishment. Students will be introduced to basic terminology, basic procedural aspects and concepts, key court cases, and possibly (based on time available) civil law procedures and the juvenile justice system. This course will incorporate readings, class discussions, guest speakers, mock *voir dire* and mock trial activities, and field trips to meet the course objectives. Students will experience the legal world beyond the walls of the classroom working with local judges, attorneys, detectives, officers, and other people working in the criminal justice world.

## PHILOSOPHY

TR	Semester 1 or 2	11, 12
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	None

The course is designed to give students an introduction to the field of philosophy. Students will be introduced to the essential questions raised in each of the subdivisions of philosophy, including Metaphysics, Epistemology, Logic, Ethics, Aesthetics and Politics. In addition, major ideas of such philosophers as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle. The timeless philosophical problems will also be considered (i.e., What is good? Is man free? Does God exist? Is a just society possible?). Emphasis will be given to critical thinking and discussion skills.

## PsychHistory

TR	Semester 1 or 2	10, 11, 12
	Credit:	2 hours per semester
	Prerequisite:	Completed one or more of the following: Human Behavior, Sociology, Psychology, or AP Psychology

This course is a unique hybrid looking at historical themes through a psychological lens. Students will consider the following themes: leadership characteristics, totalitarian regimes, crime, propaganda/communication, the effects of



trauma in war torn countries, and psychopathology and the arts. The class will follow a seminar format, as each student will have the opportunity to select their own case examples, utilize analytical research methods, and contribute their learning to the class conversation. Because of the course prerequisites, students will be expected to research independently and utilize unique critical thinking skills that cross traditional curriculum boundaries. Instead of simply researching the historical events of a particular time in history, students will access biographical information of key individuals and learn about the personal and cultural forces that help explain their choices/behavior.

## PSYCHOLOGY

MWF Semester 1 or 2 11, 12  
Credit: 3 hours per semester  
Prerequisite: None

Psychology is an exciting elective designed to provide students with a broad perspective on the many aspects of human behavior and mental processes. In this course, we will explore questions such as: What makes people behave as they do? How is our personality influenced? How do organisms learn? How does our perception of the world influence our understanding of it? Topics covered include approaches to psychology, scientific methods, the brain and body, sensation and perception, memory, personality, consciousness, and abnormal behavior. Students will have the opportunity to engage in presentations, activities, and class discussions and demonstrate their learning through exams, projects, and reflective writings.

## SENIOR SEMINAR: EXAMINING YOUR WORLD FROM OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

T Semester 1 or 2 12  
Credit: 1 hour per semester  
Prerequisite: None

The idea for this courses was generated through the examination of books like *Freakonomics*, books that made the reader question their own perspectives and prior assumptions. Most courses in Social Studies at Arapahoe are survey-type courses with the goal of exposing students to a common curriculum so that they develop a strong baseline understanding of a variety of topics. Unfortunately, because of the amount of material that is covered in limited time, rarely do students get to examine some of the alternative perspectives, conclusions, and arguments. There will be two central themes of the course : Alternative Perspectives on Today's World and Potential Perspectives on the World of Tomorrow. Specific topics and resources will be developed collaboratively as a group as will resources...that is to say that students will be developing their course, one that might address Economics, Government and Politics, Geography, History, or other Social Studies fields. The course will operate in a seminar style where students will take turns leading the discussions. Participation is not optional. Materials could include books, journal articles, documentaries, Ted Talks, or other academic sources. Each week will be an opportunity to expand one's intellectual curiosity.

## SOCIOLOGY

TR Semester 1 or 2 10, 11, 12  
Credit: 2 hours per semester  
Prerequisite: None

What holds society together? Why does inequality exist? How do social movements begin? Why do people follow? These are but a few of the many types of questions that sociologists seek to answer. Sociology, defined as the study of human relationships, focuses on understanding human behavior in the social context. At its core, sociology is the study of people and their interactions. Topics analyzed include: socialization, norms and values, conformity, deviant behavior, social control, family, gender roles, culture, and the impact of the media on society. If you are interested in learning about what motivates human behavior, this discussion and activity-based course is one for you.

## SUPREME COURT AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS

TR Semester 1 or 2 11, 12  
Credit: 1 or 2 hours per semester  
Prerequisite: None

This class will guide students in an examination of how the judicial branch relates to the legislative and executive branches. They will study the basics of how the Supreme Court operates today: how cases reach the Court, how cases are decided, and how they become the law of the land. Students will learn the names and backgrounds of our current justices, and discuss how the justices' backgrounds may have shaped their judicial philosophies. They will analyze and discuss

landmark historical and recent cases. The class will be taught as an interactive seminar to encourage critical thinking, discussion, and respectful debate and is best suited for advanced, analytical students.

## **THE HISTORY OF AUTOMOBILES IN AMERICAN CULTURE**

TR	Semester 1 or 2	10, 11, 12
	Credit:	2 hours per semester

This semester long course will explore United States history and culture through the lens of the automobile as the two are intricately linked with each other. This class will examine how the automobile has impacted the social, economic and political lives of Americans throughout modern history. Each decade faced its own challenges and triumphs, all of which are reflected in the design, features and role that cars have played in the lives of Americans. Every era in modern history has had events that have shaped the automobile, and the car has helped mold the culture and history that defines each decade. Along with examining the history of automobiles in America, this course will look to the future of cars and will predict how cars, their designs, and American culture will change in the future