

Course: Civics**Credit:** 0.5 – 1 semester**Open to Grade(s):** 12**Prerequisite:** None

Civics is a one semester course focusing on the study of the structures, processes and issues of national, state and local government. The course gives emphasis to the responsibilities and rights of citizenship, the skills necessary for critical thinking, and the knowledge appropriate for wise decision making. National government is the focus during the first half of the course, while state and local governments are stressed for the remainder of the semester. This course satisfies state graduation requirements for the study of the US and IL Constitution. Successful completion of this course and the examination covering the US and IL Constitution are necessary to satisfy graduation requirements.

Course: Illinois Studies**Credit:** 0.5 – 1 semester**Open to Grade(s):** 9 - 10**Prerequisite:** None

This class is designed to acquaint students with geographical, cultural, historical and governmental aspects of the State of Illinois. An examination of the past, present, and future development of the “Land of Lincoln” is the major focus of this class. The class explores the local, regional, and state topics related to the four areas mentioned.

Course: US History - Fall**Credit:** 0.5 – 1 semester**Open to Grade(s):** 10 - 12**Prerequisite:** None

US History-Fall is a one-semester course focusing on the American Revolutionary War through 1900. This is a chronologically arranged course stressing cultural, social, economic and political themes in the United States. Students learn about the events, people, and ideas that have shaped the country.

Course: US History - Spring**Credit:** 0.5 – 1 semester**Open to Grade(s):** 10 - 12**Prerequisite:** None

US History - Spring is a one-semester course discussing the United States between 1900 and modern times. This is a chronologically arranged course stressing cultural, social, economic and political themes in the United States. Students learn about the events, people, and ideas that have shaped the country.

Course: US History I Honors**Credit:** 0.5 – 1 semester with weighted grading**Open to Grade:** 10**Prerequisite:** None

US History I Honors is a sophomore level course which examines the nations' political, diplomatic, intellectual, cultural, social, and economic history from the Colonial Era to the Age of Jackson. Students will become familiar with the people, groups, institutions, ideas, and beliefs that comprise this time period in American history. Beyond mastering the basic factual information, the course emphasizes analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of the material, as well as, reading and interpreting primary source documents. It is strongly recommended for students planning to take AP US History as a junior to take US History Honors I.

Course: AP US History**Credit:** 1.0 - 2 semesters with weighted grading**Open to Grade(s):** 11 - 12**Prerequisite:** Strong reading and writing skills in previous English and social studies classes.
US History I - Honors is STRONGLY recommended.

Advanced Placement US History is a chronological study of the political, social and economic history of the United States from colonial times to the present. This course requires that students read the textbook and supplementary material, write essays and short papers, and participate orally in class. Class Discussions, debates over controversial issues in US History, and student presentations are part of the course. It is structured to be an introductory college US History class and in the spring, students may register to take the Advanced Placement US History exam for college credit. The cost of the exam is determined each year by the College Board.

Course: American Civil War**Credit:** 0.5 - 1 semester**Open to Grade(s):** 11 - 12**Prerequisite:** None - **Reading level should be average to above average.**

Main interest should be in history and in the Civil war.

This course studies the greatest conflict of our country's history. The beginnings of the conflict between North and South are studied, followed by an in depth look at the battles, personalities and human interest stories that make this such a fascinating subject for us today. Each year of the war is examined and students are expected to read the assigned material, complete study materials, view required films and complete assorted projects. If there is interest, a trip to a Civil War battlefield is planned as well. This course will be offered in 2024-2025, 2026-27, & 2028-29 and alternates with the World War II course listed below.

Course: World War II**Credit:** 0.5 – 1 Semester**Open to Grade(s):** 11 - 12**Prerequisite:** None – Reading Level should be average to above average.

Main interest should be in history and in World War II.

This course studies the greatest conflict in world history. The events leading up to the war are studied, followed by an in depth look at the battles, personalities and human interest stories that make World War II such an interesting part of our history. Each year of the war is examined and students are expected to read assigned material, complete study materials, view required films and complete assorted projects. This course will be offered in 2025-2026, 2027-28, & 2029-30 and alternates with American Civil War.

Course: Economics**Credit:** 0.5 - 1 semester**Open to Grade(s):** 11 - 12**Prerequisite:** Strong reading and writing skills as demonstrated in previous social studies classes.

This course is designed for students who are planning to attend college. Course emphasis is on discussion and explanation of current conditions related to markets, the forces of supply and demand, business organizational structures, financial investments, and taxes. The course focuses on the mixed free enterprise economy of the United States; however, some comparative analysis with other economic systems is included. Student participation in class discussions is essential. A research project is included in course requirements. This course meets Consumer Education requirements for graduation.

Course: Sociology**Credit:** 0.5 - 1 semester**Open to Grade(s):** 11 - 12**Prerequisite:** None

Sociology is a discussion oriented class for both the college bound and non-college bound students that looks at the development, structure, and functioning of human society. Basic sociological concepts like social norms, socialization, statuses and roles, social structures, social deviance, and social stratification will be examined through this course. To examine these concepts, topics like poverty, education, relationships, health, racism, crime, religion, and others may be explored. Topics can be controversial and emotional.

Course: Psychology**Credit:** 0.5 - 1 semester**Open to Grade(s):** 11-12**Prerequisite:** None

Psychology is recommended for both college bound and non-college bound students who are interested in investigating why people think and act the way they do. The class will examine the human mind and its functions, particularly focusing on how it affects individual behavior. Topics in this class include psychological research, learning, memory, perception, consciousness, dreams, psychological disorders, and psychological treatments.

Course: AP US Politics and Government**Credit:** 0.5 - 1 semester with weighted grading**Open to Grade(s):** 12**Prerequisite:** None

Advanced Placement US Government and Politics is a semester course for seniors that give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret US politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute US politics. Some of the units of study include (1) Constitutional basis of US government, (2) political beliefs and behaviors, (3) political parties, interest groups and mass media, (4) institutions of national government, (5) public policy and, (6) civil rights and civil liberties. This course is a weighted grade and students should plan on taking the AP exam in May. Successful completion of this course and the examination covering the US and IL Constitution will satisfy graduation requirements for the Civics credit.

Course: AP Human Geography**Credit:** 1.0 – 2 semesters with weighted grading**Open to Grade(s):** 9-12**Prerequisite:** None

This course introduces 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 socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012). Students will develop skills in approaching problems geographically, using maps and geospatial technologies, thinking critically about texts and graphic images, interpreting cultural landscapes, and applying geographic concepts such as scale, region, diffusion, interdependence, and spatial interaction, among others. Students will see geography as a discipline relevant to the world in which they live; as a source of ideas for identifying, clarifying, and solving problems at various scales; and as a key component of building global citizenship and environmental stewardship.

Course: World Geography

Credit: 0.5 – 1 semester

Open to Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite: None

World Geography is a one semester course that focuses on the 21 concepts of geography, which are derived from the National Geography Standards. Students can apply these concepts to gain a fuller understanding of the patterns and processes that shape the world and its people. Students will develop skills in approaching problems geographically, using maps and geospatial technologies, thinking critically about texts and graphic images, interpreting cultural landscapes, and applying geographic concepts such as scale, region, interdependence, and spatial interaction, among others.

Course: Ancient and Medieval Asia

Credit: 0.5 – 1 semester

Open to Grade(s): 9 - 12

Prerequisite: None

Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped Asia from the rise of the river valley civilizations to the 1200. Students will analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments. This is offered in 2024-2025, 2026-27, and 2028-29.

Course: Ancient and Medieval Europe

Credit: 0.5 – 1 semester

Open to Grade(s): 9 - 12

Prerequisite: None

Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped Europe from the rise and development of European civilization from its Mediterranean origins through the High Medieval Period. Students will analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments. This is offered in 2024-2025, 2026-27, and 2028-29.

Course: Ancient and Medieval Middle East

Credit: 0.5 – 1 semester

Open to Grade(s): 9 - 12

Prerequisite: None

Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped the Middle East from the rise and development of early civilization through the Medieval Period. Students will analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments. The students will complete one project during the semester. This is offered in 2024-2025, 2026-27, and 2028-29.

Course: Modern Asia

Credit: 0.5 – 1 semester

Open to Grade(s): 9 - 12

Prerequisite: None

Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped Asia from the Mongol period to modern day. Students will analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments. This is offered in 2025-2026, 2027-28, and 2029-30.

Course: Modern Europe

Credit: 0.5 – 1 semester

Open to Grade(s): 9 - 12

Prerequisite: None

Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped Europe from the Late Medieval Period to modern day. Students will analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments. This is offered in 2025-2026, 2027-28, and 2029-30.

Course: Modern Middle East

Credit: 0.5 – 1 semester

Open to Grade(s): 9 - 12

Prerequisite: None

Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped the Middle East from the Late Medieval Period to modern day. Students will analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments. The students will complete one project during the semester. This is offered in 2025-2026, 2027-28, and 2029-30.