

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies incorporate a number of interrelated disciplines. They include Geography, Psychology, Civics and Citizenship, Civic Action and Global Politics, World History, American History, Politics, Sociology, and Economics. All of these disciplines affect each other. It is a study of what happened in the past and how this affects what society does in the present and in the future. Social Studies help to determine what will and will not work to solve the problems of society at home and worldwide.

REQUIRED TO GRADUATE: 4 credits

World History 9 (full year)

U.S. History 10 (full year)

or Advanced Placement U.S. History (full year)

Economics (semester) Grade 11 or 12

Human Geography of Global Issues (semester) Grade 11 or 12

Civics 11/12 or Advanced Placement US Government and Politics (full year)

ELECTIVES (Grades 11-12)

Psychology (semester)

Sociology (semester)

#1301 – CIVICS (returns 2026-2027)

1 Credit = Full Year

Grade 11/12

Civics is the study of citizenship and government. It is the ability to understand and function in a democratic society. Students will gain an appreciation for the duties, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. Students will also be expected to know and comprehend how our three branch system of government works. Students will be exposed to and understand our political heritage, with particular emphasis placed on the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and the U.S. Constitution. Other class time will be devoted to learning about the two-party system, campaigns and elections, the voting process, and state government.

#1302 - U.S. HISTORY

1 Credit = Full Year

Grade 10

This course provides a chronological survey of the history of the United States. Students examine topics beginning with the period of exploration and colonization, continue through independence and revolution, constitutional debate between the Federalist and Republicans, Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy, sectionalism and Civil War, Reconstruction and industrialization, immigration and urbanization, imperialism and the progressive era, World War I and the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War. The course concludes with a study of the emergence of modern America. Students will have the option of taking the CLEP Exam at the end of each semester for the opportunity of gaining college credit.

#1308 - ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY

1 Credit = Full Year

Grade 10

This year-long course will cover nine periods of American history beginning with period one (1491) and ending with period nine (to present date). This Advanced Placement course has a demanding level of rigor that utilizes primary sources document analysis and student based inquiry. Students must be capable of careful, technical reading, exact and informative writing, perceptive evaluation of historical documents, critical analysis of divergent thinking and oral defense of controversial issues. This class is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement American History test, which, when successfully completed, could earn them college credits. Expect college-level reading with the expectations of college-level work.

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

#1303 - WORLD HISTORY 9

1 Credit = Full Year

Grade 9 & 11 2025-2026

This course takes a topical approach to the study of events that have shaped the world in which we live. Students will learn the techniques of historical study – looking for causes and effects of various events. The first semester spans from the beginnings of civilization to the Columbian Exchange. Students will investigate how cultural differences, religions, geography, economics and politics have influenced events in history. Semester two picks up where Semester one left off. . Topics for study include the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, French Revolution, Colonialism, WWI, Nationalism and Fascism, WWII, Genocide, the Cold War, Globalization and its impacts. We will be looking at many of these events from the viewpoint of both sides.

#1312 - WORLD HISTORY 11 *ALSO OFFERED AS AN ONLINE COURSE FOR GRADE 11**

#1304 - ECONOMICS **ALSO OFFERED AS AN ONLINE COURSE**

½ Credit

Grades 11-12

This is a “hybrid course.” Most weeks, the class will meet in-person Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Wednesday and Friday are days for you to read, or work on activities for the class. The teacher will be in the classroom during this time to answer questions, etc. Economics is the study of the choices that people make to deal with the basic economic problem of scarcity - wants and needs are unlimited and resources to meet those wants and needs are limited. In the first quarter students will explore microeconomics which looks at the choices of individuals. We do this by first exploring historical and philosophical roots of economics and basic themes of supply and demand, prices and markets, and personal finance. The second quarter is an examination of macroeconomics which looks at the whole economic system. We look at the Business Cycle—periods of expansion and contraction to explore the role of the government, the banking system through the Federal Reserve, fiscal and monetary policy to smooth the bumps and dips of the Business Cycle..

#1306 - PSYCHOLOGY

½ Credit

Grades 11-12

Psychology is the study of behavior and the mind. The purpose of the course is for students to understand why people behave the way they do. The main units in the course will be the history of psychology, biological bases of behavior, learning and memory, cognition, developmental psychology, social psychology, and mental disorders and treatment. We will lead and participate in experiments, watch videos, and take a field trip in order to visualize these concepts. Specific activities in the course include experiments in conformity and violating a social norm, writing a paper on a mental illness, and researching careers in psychology. Other topics that will be covered include sensation and perception, states of consciousness, motivation and emotion, and personality. Students will have the option of taking the CLEP Exam at the end of the semester for the opportunity of gaining college credit.

#1307 - SOCIOLOGY

½ Credit

Grades 11-12

This course explores the role that the external world has in shaping who we are. The field of sociology looks at socialization or how you learn your culture. We examine relationships with parents and peers, institutions like education and religion and government and economic systems. We will explore the impact that these have in shaping us, how all human beings share culture similarities as well as the emergence of differences. Topics to be explored are sociological perspectives, an examination of American culture, world cultures, the role of institutions, social and economic class distribution, prejudice and discrimination, changing gender roles, the role of education and social problems in current events. This course can be a personal exploration of the subject as well as preparation for a sociology course in college. Students will have the option of taking the CLEP Exam at the end of the semester for the opportunity of gaining college credit.

#1305 – HUMAN GEOGRAPHY *ALSO OFFERED AS AN ONLINE COURSE**

½ Credit (Semester 1 OR 2)

Grade 11/12

Using modern and current events, students will explore the way that humans interact with their physical environment and create political, economic and cultural systems that shape our choices and our interactions within that environment and the world at large. Students will develop an understanding of the impact that these human actions have on local, regional and global issues. Students will use a variety of demographic and geographic tools in their exploration of these issues. The goal is to encourage students to develop a world view and the understanding that local actions have global connections and personal choices can have global consequences.

#1310 - ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

1 Credit = Full Year

Grade 12

This year-long course will 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. As an advanced placement course, this course will model an entry level college government class in both rigor and course work. Students must be successfully capable of careful, technical reading, exact and informative writing, perceptive evaluation of historical and political documents, and critical analysis of divergent thinking and oral defense of controversial issues. Students will be encouraged (but not required) to take the Advanced Placement US Government and Politics exam in the spring, which, when successfully completed, could earn them college credit.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval, prior success in either Advanced Placement US History and/or Advanced Placement World History.