

Social Studies Courses

[Grade 9 History L3](#)

[19th and 20th Century US History I L3](#)

[19th and 20th Century US History I L4](#)

[US History and the World L3](#)

[Modern US History and the World L4](#)

[Advanced Placement United States History](#)

[Social Studies Electives](#)

[Introduction to Criminal Justice L3](#)

[Pop Culture and American Identity L3](#)

[Facing History and Ourselves L3/L4](#)

[United States Civil War L4](#)

[The United States and World War II L3/L4](#)

[Civics - Case Method Project L5](#)

[Current Affairs L3](#)

[Legal Studies L3](#)

[Macroeconomics L3/L4](#)

[Psychology L3](#)

[Psychology L4](#)

[AP Psychology](#)

[Special Topics in Psychology L4](#)

[Sociology L3](#)

[Service Based Sociology L4](#)

[The World Since 1989 L4](#)

[Around the World in 90 Days](#)

Grade 9 History L3

SS130 - 1.0 Credit - Year Long - Grade 9

Prerequisite:

- None

This course will address skills and standards mandated by the Massachusetts Curriculum and Frameworks. In this course students will grapple with the notions of individual and group identity while exploring six to seven historical concepts organized in a thematic manner. Students will wrestle with each concept using historical case studies from around the world within the time frame of 500 A.D. to the present. Additionally, students will be encouraged to challenge traditional interpretations of

historical events and to develop theories of their own. Emphasis will be placed on the development of historical skills and growth of cultural literacy.

19th and 20th Century US History I L3

SS230 - 1.0 Credit - Year Long - Grade 10

Prerequisite:

- None

Continuing to build on the skills and standards introduced in Grade 9, this course will examine the historical origin and developments in United States History from the Colonial era through the Reconstruction (1763-1877) as outlined by the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. This study will be supplemented with a focus on significant themes, geography, civics/government and current event issues as they relate to the material presented. Finally, this course will enhance and promote the development of organizational, writing, research, and critical thinking skills.

19th and 20th Century US History I L4

SS240 - 1.0 Credit - Year Long - Grade 10

Prerequisite:

- A- or better in Grade 9 History L3; **OR**
- Recommendation of the Grade 9 History L3 teacher

This course is consistent in purpose and content with US History I L3. However, this course is designed for students who would most profit from a more rigorous investigation of course content. Emphasis will be placed on long and short-term independent study and analysis. Successful performance in a variety of oral reports/discussions and extensive projects, that may include major research and analysis papers, is required. Students can expect a high frequency of independent work.

US History and the World L3

SS330 - 1.0 Credit - Year Long - Grade 11

Prerequisite:

- None

This course is a college preparatory survey of American History from Reconstruction to the present in accordance with Massachusetts Curriculum and Frameworks. Emphasis is placed on how, and why, the United States has evolved as a leader of the free world and how America might successfully deal with the challenges we face in the future. There will be analysis of conflicting points of view, research assignments, and/or book analyses. This course will enhance and promote the development of organizational, writing, research, and critical thinking skills.

Modern US History and the World L4

SS340 - 1.0 Credit - Year Long - Grade 11

Prerequisite:

- B or better in US History I L4; **OR**
- A or better in US History I L3; **OR**
- Recommendation of US History I teacher

This course is a college preparatory survey of American History from Reconstruction to the present. It is intended for those students who would most profit from the challenge of intensive investigation of conflicting points of view, the analysis of both secondary and primary sources, independent study, and major research and thesis paper assignments.

Advanced Placement United States History

(Meets Requirement for Grade 11)

SS350 - 1.0 Credit - Year Long - Grade 11

Prerequisite:

- A- or better in US History I L4; **OR**
- A or better in US History I L3; **OR**
- Special written recommendation of a previous social studies instructor.

(The Social Studies Department reserves the right to review student success in the student's past English courses and may also require a writing sample for admission to the AP course.)

This is a college level history course designed to meet the needs of highly motivated students who have a strong interest in history and have the ability to profit from an advanced program in American History.

The student should expect daily reading assignments, independent study and frequent research assignments. The student is expected to read and analyze both primary and secondary source materials and to demonstrate ability to interpret and evaluate these diverse sources in verbal and essay form. Students are expected to take the AP American History exam in May as preparation for the exam is the primary goal of the course. Therefore, the course is content driven and places heavy emphasis on written critical analysis. Extensive writing and discussion are integral components of the program. Students should expect extensive independent work outside of classroom time.

Social Studies Electives

Introduction to Criminal Justice L3

SS333 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grades 10-11

Prerequisite:

- None

In this course students will engage in an overview of the American system of criminal justice, covering criminal law, policing, courts, the punishment and corrections systems, and juvenile justice. Issues will be explored at the local, state, and federal level with an emphasis on current issues facing all three levels of government.

Pop Culture and American Identity L3

SS232 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grades 10-11

Prerequisite:

- None

In this course, students will explore the role of pop culture in the formation of how Americans perceive themselves. Investigations into the role of music, art, film, television, radio, sports and other elements of popular culture will allow students to ask significant questions about the role of popular culture in reflecting and shaping American identity.

Facing History and Ourselves L3/L4

SS331/341 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grades 11-12

Prerequisite:

- Recommendation of previous instructor in United States history

This semester course is open to grades 11 and 12. Any junior requesting this course will need to be recommended for it by their current History teacher. This course examines bias, racism, and prejudice in a historical context. Through their study of intolerance and genocides such as the Holocaust, students will be able to make the correlation between history and the moral and ethical choices they are forced to make on a daily basis in their own lives. The course will use a wide range of academic research, film, guest speakers, projects, and class discussion to achieve the goals of the course.

United States Civil War L4

SS440 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grades 11-12

Prerequisite:

- None

This course is open to any junior or senior who has a keen interest in US History and who wants to challenge themselves with an in depth study of the watershed event of the nation. Instruction will focus on the underlying causes of the war, the war itself, and local involvement in the war. Instruction will routinely be student centered emphasizing significant examination of both primary and secondary documents. With extensive guidance and support, students will engage in one significant independent research project per quarter.

The United States and World War II L3/L4

SS332/342 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grades 11-12

Prerequisite:

- Successful completion of US History I (Level 4 credit per recommendation of course instructor)

This course is designed for students who wish to examine the United States' role in the origins, execution and aftermath of World War II. The course will employ extensive use of film, primary and secondary documents and artifacts. Students who wish to receive level 4 credit will engage in independent work that will include 2 books of the student's choosing.

Civics - Case Method Project L5

SS450 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- None

The Case Method originated at Harvard Business School over a hundred years ago. This course builds on this successful methodology by incorporating multiple civic lessons in American History to give students access to high level readings and in-depth discussions of the formation and preservation of our democratic system and the ideals which support them.

Current Affairs L3

SS434 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- None

This course will provide interested and motivated students with an opportunity to increase their knowledge of local, state, federal and international affairs through in-depth investigation. Students will select and investigate 4-6 significant current political topics with the guidance of the instructor in an effort to become more active and well-informed citizens. The course will require significant research-based group work and authentic community-based learning activities.

Legal Studies L3

SS432 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- None

Legal Studies is a semester course designed to familiarize students with the philosophy and practice of civil, criminal and constitutional law. While highlighting the use of debate, research, case studies, mock trial and speakers from the legal and law enforcement community, this course will acquaint students with the ethics, language and culture of law in the United States. The Mock Trial is the culmination of this course and all students participate in its planning and execution. Students who enter this class after the first day of class are expected to make up for all missed work.

Macroeconomics L3/L4

SS431/441 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- None

This semester course consists of a study of macro-economic concepts and the language of economics. Concepts presented include such topics as supply and demand, economic markets, inflation, deflation, business cycles, and the role of organized labor and government in a market economy as well as an explanation of the principles of consumer economics. Students who enter this class after the first day of class are expected to make up for all missed work.

Psychology L3

SS430 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- None

Psychology is the study of the behavior of individuals. It explores what people do, how they think, and why they act as they do. Some of the topics studied include personality, motivation, abnormal psychology, growth and development, and learning theories. Heavy emphasis is placed upon classroom discussion and the reading of relevant articles on assigned topics. Students who enter this class after the first day are expected to make up for all missed work.

Psychology L4

SS444 - 1.0 Credit - Year Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- B or better in US History II L4; **OR**
- A- or better in US History II L3; **OR**
- Successful completion of AP United States History; **OR**
- Recommendation of US History II teacher

In this course students will explore the science of human behavior through multiple lenses which includes but not limited to biology, cognition, and societal influences. This in-depth study employs textbook, journal articles, and outside readings to offer students the most up-to-date research in the field while allowing students an opportunity to research a topic of interest as a capstone project.

AP Psychology

SS 451 - 1.0 Credit - Year Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- Final grade no lower than a B+ in junior level 4 history or no lower than an A in junior level 3 history.

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 will learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. This course is designed to mirror an entry level college course; therefore, students must be willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous curriculum. Students will take the AP Psychology Exam in May.

Special Topics in Psychology L4

SS442 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- None

This course is designed for self motivated students with a keen interest in Psychology and will serve dual objectives. The first half of the course will engage students in an in depth study of topics determined by the instructor consistent with the canon of Psychology. The second half of the course will be reserved for student initiated concentrated research on a topic of individual choice. With their instructor students will determine and create a product intended for multiple audiences.

Sociology L3

SS433 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- None

The study of sociology examines human group behavior and current social issues. This course stresses the use of research and analysis in examining patterns of human group behavior. Independent work as well as group projects and extensive class discussion

are stressed. Students who enter this class after the first day of class are expected to make up for all missed work.

Service Based Sociology L4

SS445 - 1.0 Credit - Year Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- None

Sociology examines human group behavior and current social issues and this course provides students with a school-based service learning experience that supports the academic content of the course. Students will be required to have a regularly scheduled individual service commitment and complete 20 hours of community service per quarter. In addition to individual commitments, hours will be applied from group or whole class service projects. The instructor will act as the facilitator and will assist in individual as well as school and community-wide projects. The instructor will determine the use of class meeting time for academic work, individual / group conferencing, or research to enhance and enable service commitments.

The World Since 1989 L4

SS441 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long - Grade 12

Prerequisite:

- None

This course is open to any senior who has a keen interest in modern world history and who wants to challenge themselves with an in depth study of the contemporary world. The course will include a survey of world history since 1989 and will examine specific situations in great detail. This is a student driven research and presentation based course that explores issues outside the United States in depth. Topics center on issues such as economic globalization, religious fundamentalism, and nationalism in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Instruction will be student centered emphasizing research in and out of the classroom.

Around the World in 90 Days L3/L4

SS338/SS348 - 0.5 Credit - Semester Long- Grades 11 & 12

Prerequisite: None

Through a series of Project-Based Learning Opportunities, students will research, plan & design a series of international trips. Students will research the history, geography & culture of a country and then create a trip around a particular theme and budget. In addition, together we will also explore the culture, food, and traditions of selected places. This course is designed to introduce students to new and unfamiliar parts of the world and to encourage curiosity in diverse cultures. Students who elect to take this course must be prepared to conduct extensive research and create detailed itineraries and tours for their international adventures.