

Welcome to the Air Academy

Social Studies Department

The Social Studies Department serves to develop and prepare the student for the social, political, and economic experiences that they will face in their adult lives. We believe that the student should develop a global concept of the world which will aid in their productivity to society. This includes the principles of critical thinking and an understanding of the roles of government, citizenship, the effects of history, and the behavioral sciences in understanding our everyday world.

- Six semester credits (three years) of social studies are required for graduation. (Most colleges would like to see eight semester credits (four years) of social studies.)
- All Kadets must pass: Civics (or A.P. Government) **and** two semesters of United States history.

Something For Every Student:

Air Academy students have a diverse array of courses to choose from in the social studies department. World Geography, World and U.S. history, and Civics/Government comprise the core classes that you will take, but in each of those, you can choose your appropriate level of rigor. On-level classes provide a detailed and vibrant curriculum that aligns with Colorado State Standards while Honors classes build on that by placing more emphasis on critical thinking, higher-order thinking skills, and more challenging assessments. A.P. (Advanced Placement) classes are the most challenging and they work to create a collegiate level curriculum geared towards achieving college credit on the Advanced Placement exams.

Electives:

In addition to the four core areas, the Air Academy Social Studies department offers a wide array of elective courses. From Economics, Psychology, International Relations, and Contemporary Issues to Sociology, Colorado History, and Multicultural America, you can broaden your understanding of the world and earn core elective credit in these semester courses. You may also challenge yourself (and work towards your AP Achievement Cord) by taking A.P. European History or A.P. Psychology. (Both are full year courses).

Challenge by Choice:

At Air Academy, we believe that all students should choose classes that suit their academic interests and capabilities, but we also believe that students should reach for the next level of rigor whenever appropriate. All Kadets may take Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes whenever they believe the challenge is warranted. Teachers, counselors, and parents should, and will provide guidance in this area as well, but we want our students to feel free to push themselves and raise their own academic expectations whenever appropriate.

Social Studies A.P. Achievement Cord:

With the addition of A.P. World for sophomores, Air Academy now offers six different Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Students who successfully complete five (or all six) of these courses (with “C” or higher) during their high school career will qualify to wear the Social Studies A.P. Achievement Cord at their graduation. (Students who qualify should see Mr. Gorr in January of their senior year to order cord for graduation).

“History is not the past, but a map of the past drawn from a particular point of view to be useful to the modern traveler.” - Henry Glassie

Air Academy Advanced Placement Courses:

- **A.P. Human Geography (APHUG): (9th Grade)**

- AP Human Geography introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and organization of the earth. Through engaging, hands-on, interactive lessons, students will explore the ways in which human beings interact with each other, and develop spatial relationships at different scales ranging from local to global. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. AP Human Geography is often summarized as, “why what is where, and why does it matter?”

- **A.P. World History: (10th Grade)**

- Do you like learning about foreign countries and empires, international customs, innovations and inventions, and famous wars, battles, and generals? Do you like watching documentaries and reading historical books about famous events and people? Then AP World History is for you!
- In AP World History: Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment; cultural developments and interactions; governance; economic systems; social interactions and organization; and technology and innovation.
- Students are expected to continue their learning outside the classroom through regular homework (acquiring content knowledge). There is so much to learn in this class, but learning the history of the world in nine months is a fun challenge!! Ready! Set! Go!

- **A.P. European History (APEURO): (Generally taken in 10th grade or 12th grade)**

- If you are looking for an opportunity to explore European History from the Renaissance to the Digital Age this is the class for you! The Black Death, The Hundred Years War, Cutting Edge Art Movements, Historic Influencers, The French Revolution, Napoleon, the Thirty Years War, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and the collapse of the Berlin Wall are just a few of the topics we will cover! We take an in-depth look at the institutions, movements, revolutions, and wars that have shaped Europe over 700 years! Fast-paced, college-depth study will enhance your understanding of modern-day Europe and help you make sense of 21st century current events.

- **A.P. U.S. History (APUSH): (11th Grade)**

- A.P. U.S. history (APUSH) is an amazing course at Air Academy. It is a fun and challenging way to start (or continue) your A.P. progression. Mr. Gorr has a unique ability to combine storytelling, interesting projects, rigorous coursework, interactive discussions, and even occasional movie nights into a collegiate -level course that will provide insight and understanding into the American narrative.
- Students have loved this course for years (even with its rigor), and it is the most popular (most taken) A.P. history course offered by Collegeboard.
- In addition to his decades of teaching APUSH, Mr. Gorr's experience as an A.P. Exam grader creates a distinctive opportunity to improve your writing skills, to better understand the United States and its history, become a more critical thinker, and in the long-run, hopefully become a more informed voter, citizen, and American. APUSH is a wonderful rewarding course.

- **A.P. Government (APGOV): (12th grade)**

- Learn about the Constitution
- Engage in Mock Congress and a Mock Presidential campaign.
- Learn about current laws, and legal practices.
- Debate your classmates over current events and current issues.
- Discover the Constitution article by article, and all the founding documents.
- Research political parties and engage in media with current politicians.

- o Argue about Supreme Court cases, and write your own Supreme court opinions.

A.P. Psychology (APPSYCH): (Elective: 10th, 11th, 12th grade)

- o AP Psychology meets the objectives of a college level course in psychology. In this introductory course into the study of human and animal behavior and mental processes, students are introduced to psychological facts, and principles and phenomena associated with the different areas of psychology. Topics covered include the biology of behavior, sensation and perception, motivation and emotion, states of consciousness, development, abnormal behavior, therapy approaches, personality, and social psychology. All students are expected to take the AP exam for the purpose of earning college credit.

Air Academy Social Studies Options:

Year	Recommended	Electives
9th	☐ World Regional Geography & PFL (Full Year) Or ☐ Honors World Regional Geography & PFL (Full) Or ☐ AP (Advanced Placement Human Geography (Full)	☐ Street Law (Semester) ☐ International Relations (Semester) ☐ Colorado History (Semester)
10th	☐ World History & Geography (Full) Or ☐ Honors World History & Geography (Full) Or ☐ AP (Advanced Placement) World History (Full)	☐ AP European History (Full Year) ☐ Street Law (Semester) ☐ Economics (Semester) ☐ International Relations (Semester) ☐ Multicultural America (Semester) ☐ Colorado History (Semester) ☐ Contemporary Issues (Semester) ☐ AP Psychology (Full Year)
11th	☐ US History & Geography (Full) Or ☐ Honors US History & Geography (Full) Or ☐ AP US History and Geography (Full) US History is required for graduation.	☐ AP European History (Full Year) ☐ Psychology (Semester) ☐ AP Psychology (Full Year) ☐ Sociology (Semester) ☐ Economics (Semester) ☐ Multicultural America (Semester) ☐ Colorado History (Semester) ☐ 20th Century American History (Semester) ☐ Street Law (Semester) ☐ International Relations (Semester) ☐ Contemporary Issues (Semester)
12th	☐ Civics (One Semester) Or ☐ AP US Government (Full) Students are required to successfully complete a semester of Civics Or a full year of AP Government to meet the state Civics graduation requirement.	☐ AP European History (Full Year) ☐ Psychology (Semester) ☐ AP Psychology (Full Year) ☐ Economics (Semester) ☐ Sociology (Semester) ☐ Multicultural America (Semester) ☐ AP European History (Full Year) ☐ Colorado History (Semester) ☐ Street Law (Semester) ☐ International Relations (Semester) ☐ 20th Century American History (Semester) ☐ Contemporary Issues (Semester)

- **Note: Not all elective courses are offered every semester, and many are registration dependent.**

Course numbers for registration:

Course Titles	Course Number	Open To Grade(s)	Length
World Regional Geography (Includes PFL)	154000-A/B	9	year
Honors World Regional Geography (Includes PFL)	154004-A/B	9	year
International Relations	157310	9-12	semester
Street Law	157125	9-12	semester
World History/Geography	155905-A/B	10	year
Honors World History/Geography	155910-A/B	10	year
Honors World Studies	155909-A/B	10	year
Colorado History and Geography	152300	9-12	semester
Economics	153000	10-12	semester
Multi-Cultural America	155105	10-12	semester
AP European History	155000-A/B	10-12	year
AP U.S. Government and Politics	157115-A/B	11-12	year
AP U.S. History	155525-A/B	11-12	year
U.S. History/Geography	155505-A/B	11-12	year
Honors U.S. History/Geography	155510-A/B	11-12	year
Psychology	158000	11-12	semester
Advanced Psychology	158005	11-12	semester
Sociology	151000	11-12	semester
20th Century American History	155100	11-12	semester
Civics	157105	12	semester
Contemporary Problems	157305	10-12	semester

[See online course catalog](#) for updated course descriptions