

Social Studies
Course Requests and
Scheduling for
2024-25

Important Info for AP

Social Studies AP Application Process

Applications Open open January 22nd

All AP Applications are Due February 9th

SS Acceptance Letters will be sent by out no later than February 23,
but our goal will be to have them out sooner than that!

Here is a [LINK](#) to AP Applications

In order to successfully be enrolled in a SS AP Course, you must do
each of the following

1. Fill Out the Application for Each Specific Course
2. Enter the Course in Course Requests in IC
3. Respond to the Acceptance Letter with an Affirmative Response

**ALL THREE THINGS MUST BE DONE IN ORDER TO BE IN A SS AP
COURSE!**

The Purpose of this Slideshow

The following slides are intended to help you determine which courses to choose as you make your course requests. If you have additional questions:

- Ask your current Social Studies teacher
- Ask ANY Social Studies teacher
- Ask those currently teaching the course
- Ask students currently in those classes
- Ask your counselor

The Following Section is
intended for current 9th
graders as they plan for
their Sophomore Year

(or transfer students who need to take
these courses)

World Geo/Civ OR AP Human Geo?

1. AP Human Geo is a great class for many.
2. This is a great way to experience what an AP class is like.
3. BUT, are you willing to put in the time with reading and test work?
4. Do you have a TRUE interest in the topic?
5. Or are you just hoping for a GPA boost?

- Choose WISELY
- World is a great class, too!
- Talk to your current teacher
- Talk to current students
- Be REALISTIC




AP Human Geo Information




- Full-year class for sophomores
 - This meets your sophomore-level social studies requirement and requires an application.
- Students will explore current events through the lense of geography. The content is relevant and always changing!
 - Topics covered include: Population & Migration, Culture, Geopolitics, Agriculture and more!
- Students must commit to reading and note-taking outside of class. Completing the reading is necessary to have success in class.

World Geography and Civilizations

 Sophomore / Year-long course

 Embark on a fascinating journey through the five themes of geography, the development of civilizations, population dynamics, imperialism, human rights, and more! Enrich your understanding of global issues and civilizations, and develop a well-rounded perspective on our world.

Course Highlights:

-  In-depth exploration of the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and China
-  Critical analysis of the interplay between geography and civilizations
-  This class will prepare you for all social studies options in your junior year, college, and other post-secondary opportunities.

 This is a discussion and activities-based class.

Elective for Sophomores

As Sophomores, students can choose to take the following elective:

- Human Behavior
 - This course is a great introduction to a number of Social Studies electives that are available to Juniors and Seniors such as Sociology and Psychology.
 - Taking this course might help you make your choices for your Junior year path in Social Studies.

The number of available sections will be determined by your course requests and our ability to provide a teacher to teach it.

Intro to Human Behavior

- Freshmen & Sophomores / Quarter Course
- This class is for students who are interested in learning about themselves and the people around them
- The class is discussion and project-based
- Topics include:
 - Personality
 - Sleep and Dreams
 - Drugs and Addiction
 - Socialization
 - Marriage and Families
 - Gender Roles

The Following Section is
intended for current 10th
graders as they plan for
their Junior Year

(or transfer students who need to take
these courses)

Reminders for Current 10th Grade

As Juniors, students need to sign up for AT LEAST 1.0 credits in Social Studies. You can do so using a full year course, semester-long courses, quarter-long courses, or a mix of semester- and quarter-long courses.

Students can take MORE than 1.0 credits during their junior year.

See the Pathfinder for a full explanation!

List of Electives for Juniors

As Juniors, students can choose from these:

- AP Psychology (F) AP US History (F)
- CE Western Civ I (S) CE Western Civ II (S)
- CE Sociology (S) CE US History 1945-present (S)
- Criminal Law (Q) Philosophy (Q)
- US Hist thru Music (Q) History of Cars In US (Q)
- Psychology (Q) Religions (Q)
- International Relations (Q) PsychHistory (Q)

See the Pathfinder if you want to ALSO take AP Government or AP Microeconomics in addition to the 1.0 of other Social Studies Credits.

Info on courses available in later slides

(F) Full Year Courses

(S) Semester Long Courses

(Q) Quarter Courses

The Following Section is intended for current 11th graders as they plan for their Senior Year

Is Online Gov right for me?

This class is intended for students who need flexibility in their schedule.

Students who are interested in taking this class need **to be self motivated and organized** to complete weekly work.

This class will require students to do weekly reading assignments, online discussions and attend short in person/google hangouts once a week to review the work.

Have questions - See Ms Winn for more info

List of Electives for Seniors

As Seniors, students can choose from these:

- AP Government (F)
- AP Psychology (F)
- AP Economics (F)
- AP US History (F)
- CE Western Civ I (S)
- CE Sociology (S)
- CE Western Civ II (S)
- CE US History 1945-present (S)
- Criminal Law (Q)
- US Hist thru Music (Q)
- Psychology (Q)
- International Relations (Q)
- Philosophy (Q)
- History of Cars In US (Q)
- Religions (Q)
- PsychHistory (Q)

Info on courses available in later slides

(F) Full Year Courses

(S) Semester Long Courses

(Q) Quarter Courses

Things to Consider for Juniors and Seniors

- AP or CE?
- Full year vs Semester vs Quarter Options
- In school Government or Online Government
- Which Electives are BEST suited to your interests?

The following slides might help. So can the Pathfinder where info is a bit more thorough.

Be aware that your choices in Course Requests WILL be used to determine what classes are available for scheduling. It is possible that you request a course that does not make the schedule.

Are AP Classes the RIGHT choice for you in Social Studies?

1. You will be EXPECTED to do college level reading on an almost nightly basis.
2. You will be EXPECTED to prepare for each day's class, not just the night before tests.
3. You will be EXPECTED to use methods that focus on a cumulative NATIONAL EXAM in May.
4. You may be EXPECTED to participate in class and to utilize Enrichment opportunities.
5. Very few students achieve well (AP score-wise) without putting in EFFORT in and out of class.

Are AP Classes the RIGHT choice for you in Social Studies?

- Have a real conversation with your current SS teacher about what classes might make the most sense for you based on your INTERESTS and your SKILLS and your WORK ETHIC.
- Talk to students who “do school” LIKE YOU do to find your best fit. Be wary of those who say “It’s easy” as few in the courses currently would agree.
- Talk to the AP teachers if you have questions. Look at their syllabi for the current year. Make sure the course is what you think it is.

AP US History

- Who?
 - Juniors and Seniors / Full Year Course
- What?
 - This course is designed to provide a chronological and thematic approach to the American experience from the New World beginnings to contemporary times.
- Why?
 - Thought-provoking, interesting content to learn more about our nation's past and the connections to present day.
 - College credit opportunities through successful score on the National AP Exam and/or Concurrent Enrollment through ACC with a grade of C or better.
- How?
 - As an entry level college course, students should expect the workload to be comprehensive including weekly reading assignments, class discussions, multiple choice assessments, and argumentation through writing.
 - Class activities, discussions, projects, etc. rely on you completing the assigned reading. This is not a lecture-based course.

AP US Government & Politics

- Full year class prioritized for Seniors and available to Juniors who have an additional 1.0 of SS credits in their Junior Year Schedule.
- Should have an interest in understanding the philosophies, institutions, and processes as we examine the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the 3 Branches, the role of Interest Groups-Parties-Media-Elections.
- We spend almost **NO time having partisan debate.** We will look at the issue from the perspective of a political scientist, not a pundit or angry partisan.
- Student should be a strong reader, a note-taker (both with readings and in-class), and a strong tester. If not strong, the student needs to commit to working on those skills and coming in for help.

AP Microeconomics

- Full year class prioritized for Seniors and available to juniors who have an additional 1.0 of SS credits in the Junior Year Schedule.
- Math plays a big part in this course - you must feel comfortable performing frequent calculations, and drawing and interpreting graphs.
- The course focuses on how to think economically in making personal decisions and in understanding the world around us.
 - Many students in DECA and FBLA have found the course content very useful!
- Success in the class requires the ability to think logically and sequentially, as well as the self-discipline to monitor your progress and react accordingly.

AP Psychology

Full year course available to juniors and seniors.

Psychology is the study of why we act the way we act and think the way we think. Such a broad definition explains the breadth of topics and questions that we explore. Just a few examples include:

Why do we dream? What is going on in our brains to create optical illusions?

If people are so smart, why do we make such bad decisions sometimes?

Are facial expressions around the globe similar or do they vary from culture to culture?

What is the difference between dissociative identity disorder and schizophrenia?

How does one treat various psychological disorders?

What is more important, nature or nurture?

What parts of our brain specializes in what tasks and does it even work like that?

How can I learn to solve problems and/or learn and remember things better?

This is a fun but rigorous class. You will be expected to complete daily reading and notecards at home so that we can demonstrate and apply the concepts in class. Your vocabulary will expand exponentially as will your ability to apply concepts to new problems. For interested and motivated students.

Social Studies Quarter-Long Electives

The following descriptions might help you to understand what the quarter-long courses are like. But if you need more info, talk to your teacher. Or find out who teaches the course and come ask them questions. Or find students who are currently in the courses and talk to them.

American History through Music

- Juniors & Seniors / Quarter Course
- 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.
- Themes include
 - “Patriotism & Protest”,
 - “Civil Rights & Social Change”
- “The more you love music, the more music you love!”

Comparative World Religions

- Juniors and Seniors / Quarter Course
- This class is for students who want to enhance their own religious literacy while examining 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.
 - Religions studied: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, & Buddhism
- The class centers around case studies, discussions, and projects

Criminal Law

- Seniors and Juniors / Quarter Course
- If you enjoy crime shows and are intrigued by the world of criminals, police, attorneys, judges, juries, and prison guards, then this is the right place.
- Examines the key aspects of criminal law with a brief examination of civil law (lawsuits)
 - Crime in our Culture
 - Investigation of Crimes - the role of Detectives
 - Roles and Responsibilities of Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys through, IF POSSIBLE, a Mock Trial held in front of a Colorado District Court Judge in their courtroom
 - Decision-making by Judges with Sentencing
 - Options for Punishment, including a look at Prisons
 - The Death Penalty
 - Experiential Focus with speakers and opportunities
 - Guest Speakers, Court Visits, and Police Ride Alongs add to the discussions if possible
- Must be comfortable talking about details of crimes.

International Relations

- Juniors and Seniors / Quarter Course

The theme of IR is “The world is bigger than Littleton/Centennial.”

We attempt to understand the gamesmanship, dynamics and theories of how nations interact with each other.

First, we look broadly at the current events that affect relationships between countries, then we practice negotiation and mediation skills, and finally the course culminates with a classwide simulation as students work in teams to run their own countries.

Philosophy

- Juniors & Seniors / Quarter Course
- 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 philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, Kant and more.
 - Timeless philosophical problems, paradoxes and allegories will also be considered (i.e., What is the good life? Do we have free will? What is reality?).
 - Emphasis will be given to critical thinking and discussion skills.

PsychHistory

- Juniors and Seniors / Quarter Course
- A great course to take AFTER you have already taken AP Psychology, Psychology, Sociology, or Human Behavior
- PsychHistory is a class that looks at historical ideas through a psychological lens.
- Instead of asking “what” happened, we attempt to understand “why.” Examples of past student questions:
 - Why did the Salem Witch trials occur?
 - Why are bad decisions made in a room full of really smart people?
 - Why is it so hard for a dictator to let go of power once they have it?
 - Why does a war torn region often have it’s misery perpetuated?
 - Why do people join “cults?”
- Students research and create a psychbiography on who they think is the most interesting person in the world.

Psychology

- Seniors and Juniors / Quarter Course
- This class is for students who have an interest in learning about 'human behavior and mental processes' and the influences that shape who we are. In this course we will explore:
 - What is 'Psychology'?
 - How can we know anything about the science?
 - What are the different 'perspectives' of Psychology?
 - How are you shaped to behave certain ways?
 - How does the brain control our thoughts and behaviors?
 - What influences how we think?
 - What is 'sensation', and how are our 'perceptions' formed?
 - How are we influenced by society and the presence of others?
 - What is consciousness? What are altered states of consciousness?

Senior Seminar

- Seniors Only / Quarter Course
- This class has two objectives:
 - Discuss ideas and topics that are often overlooked in your education
 - Examine the future much more than the present or the past ... or at least what the future might be.
- Students will COLLABORATE to create the path of the course, CHOOSE the resources we examine, and decide what we will do with those resources.
- Prior groups have chosen to examine a range of books and videos on topics that range from the future of AI to the future of healthcare, from the future of food to the future of relationships. The topics are based on the topics students have a passion for.

U.S. History Through Cars

- Seniors and Juniors / Quarter Course
- This class is for students who have an interest in cars and/or are willing to learn about them
- We study U.S. History through the lens of the automobile
 - How has history impact the car?
 - How have cars impacted history & culture?
 - Examine how cars have evolved over the decades (designs, features, purpose, etc.)
 - Create a “dream car” garage
 - What does the future of cars look like (self-driving, flying cars, new technologies)?
 - Design your future dream car
 - Tech days where we examine how cars work
 - We organize & host a charity car show at Arapahoe during the fall (schedule and weather permitting)

Concurrent Enrollment Options

The following descriptions might help you to understand what the semester-long CE courses are like. But if you need more info, talk to your teacher. Or find out who teaches the course and come ask them questions. Or find students who are currently in the courses and talk to them.



CE: Intro to Sociology I

- Who?
 - Juniors and Seniors / Semester Course
- What?
 - Sociology, defined as the study of human relationships, focuses on understanding human behavior in the social context. This dynamic field connects how the parts of society interact and fit together while analyzing why people think the way they think and why they do what they do.
 - Topics explored: culture, socialization, education, family, gender roles, social groups, group dynamics, conformity and social control, crime and deviance, & the impact of media on our daily lives.
- Why?
 - If registered in Concurrent Enrollment, students will have the opportunity to earn college credit from ACC with a semester grade of C or better. This is a statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-SS3 category.
 - Students leave the course with a better understanding of self, others, and our interconnected roles within society.
- How?
 - An interactive class that examines engaging content in a discussion and activity-based format. See Mrs. Cornils if you have any questions.



CE: US History Since 1945

- Who?
 - Juniors and Seniors / Semester Course
- What?
 - Explores key moments and people from the end of WWII to present day.
 - Organized both chronologically and thematically, examines how the past century shaped today's political, social-cultural, and economic landscapes.
 - Studies a diverse set of narratives through multiple lenses to understand our complex nation.
- Why?
 - If registered in Concurrent Enrollment, students will have the opportunity to earn college credit from ACC with a semester grade of C or better. This is a statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-H11 category.
 - Students leave the course as better thinkers, problem-solvers, and with the ability to see relevance of the nation's past to present answering a central question:
HOW DID WE GET HERE?
- How?
 - An interactive class that examines engaging content in a discussion and activity-based format. See Mrs. Cornils if you have any questions.

CE Western Civ I

 Juniors & Seniors / Semester Course


 Embark on a thrilling exploration of European history, spanning from the transformative Neolithic Revolution to the tumultuous English Civil War. Unearth the stories, events, and characters that have shaped the course of history.

 College Credit Opportunities!

- If enrolled in Concurrent Enrollment, students will have the opportunity to earn college credit from ACC with a semester grade of C or better.


 Discover the thrill of understanding the roots of modern civilization through this core question:

- "What makes a civilization modern?"
 - Uncover the secrets behind the evolution of societies and what sets modern civilizations apart. Gain insights that go beyond textbooks, sparking your curiosity to understand the world around

 Engaging Activities and Story-Based Learning. Engage in activities that make the past resonate with the present.

CE Western Civ IIX

 Juniors & Seniors / Semester Course


 Embark on a thrilling exploration of European history, spanning from the radical French Revolution to modern times. Unearth the stories, events, and characters that have shaped the course of history.

 College Credit Opportunities!

- If enrolled in Concurrent Enrollment, students will have the opportunity to earn college credit from ACC with a semester grade of C or better.

 Discover the thrill of understanding the roots of modern civilization through this core question:

- "What is the relationship between the government and the people?"
 - Delve into the heart of political dynamics and societal structures. Grasp the nuances of governance and its impact on individuals, fostering a deeper understanding of the intricate dance between rulers and the ruled.

 Engaging Activities and Story-Based Learning. Engage in activities that make the past resonate with the present.