

Social Studies

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Responsible participatory citizenship in our democratic republic is the major goal of the Social Studies program. The basic course offerings should enable the student to develop the necessary skills and understandings to achieve this goal.

Social Studies Course Listings

Required Courses			
Course #	Title	Level	Prerequisite
4902	World Geography	Yr. 9	None
4910	Honors World History	Yr. 9	None
4912	AP World History	Yr. 9-12	See course description for recommendation
4929	American Society (Block with English II)	Yr. 10	World History or World Geography
4936	American Studies	Yr. 10-12	World History or World Geography
4922	U.S. History Traditional	Yr. 10-12	World History or World Geography
4924	AP United States History	Yr. 11-12	World History or World Geography
4906	Government	Sem. 12	None
4958	AP Government and Politics	Yr. 11-12	American History Options
Elective Courses			
Course #	Title	Level	Prerequisite
4365	AP Art History	Yr. 9-12	See course description for recommendation
4960	AP European History	Yr. 10-12	See course description for recommendation
4915	AP Human Geography	Yr. 9-12	See course description for recommendation
4944	AP Psychology	Sem. 11-12*	Psychology I
4932	Adventure Studies	Sem. 11-12	Application & Interview Process
4956	Military History	Sem. 11-12	None
4940	Psychology I	Sem. 11-12	None
4942	Psychology & Group Behavior	Sem. 11-12	None
4930	Sociology	Sem. 11-12	None
4952	U.S. Geography	Sem. 11-12	None

*Offered 2nd semester only

Social Studies Course Descriptions

4932 Adventure Studies and Pursuits - *Grade 11-12. One semester.* Blending a curriculum of geography, physical education, and leadership, this interdisciplinary class provides a unique learning experience to students. Students are required to participate in daily classroom sessions and various out of school trips (including weeknights, weekends, and days off) that combine traditional classroom subject matter with the adventure education activities of hiking, backpacking, and rock climbing or canoeing. Course units will include geography topics on landforms, weather, public land management, wilderness ethics, and navigation, as well as physical education units on backpacking, wilderness first aid, rock climbing, nutrition, outdoor cooking, and expedition planning. Leadership skills and decision-making are interwoven throughout all class experiences. Students are expected to be relatively active and physically able to participate on numerous planned adventures that occur beyond the school day and could last from one to five days. Outside readings and a final project will also be required. Due to the amount of time spent out of the traditional classroom, students will earn one semester (1/2 unit) of credit in Social Studies as well as be exempted from their physical education requirement for the semester. Students may need to purchase individual equipment for the class and a participation fee is required.

4929 American Society- Two period block of American History /English II -Grade 10. Year long. Prerequisite is World History or World Geography. This is a year long two-period block-scheduled class in which students receive individual grades for both History and English. The linkage between the two courses allows for many opportunities to emphasize the connections between American history, literature, art, music and architecture through team-teaching, and joint assignments and projects. The course demands active student participation, intensive outside reading, and challenges beyond the classroom setting (i.e. field trips, projects). Students who are interested in studying history and English through this creative, humanities emphasis will enjoy this option. This course satisfies the American History and the English II graduation requirement.

4936 American Studies - Grade 10-12. Year long. Prerequisite is World History or World Geography. American Studies is the study of American History as shaped by American culture. This course integrates traditional history topics with art, music, literature, fashion, and architecture. Course activities demand active student participation, intensive outside readings, and challenges beyond the classroom. Students who are interested in studying history through this unique approach will enjoy American Studies. This course satisfies the American History graduation requirement.

4365 AP (Advanced Placement) Art History – Grade 9-12. Year long. Weighted grade. AP Art History is a chronological survey of artistic styles, artists, architecture, painting, sculpture and photography primarily of the western tradition with periodic introductions of non-western work from Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Near East, Oceanic and Islamic traditions. Emphasis is placed on the study of the development of style within cultures, eras and artists' careers. Students will develop knowledge of specific stylistic characteristics of various cultures as well as the terminology necessary to communicate a scholarly analysis of the works. In order to understand the similarities and differences that exist in our visual world, we will explore the symbolism, artistic processes and political, social, economic and scientific background of the artwork. Formal analysis using the art elements and design principles are specifically referenced to each art form. Central to the AP Art History course is the development of visual literacy, oral and written skills of comparative analysis, and the understanding of those works in historical and sociological context. This course requires a high degree of commitment and academic work as students should be engaged at the same level as a college level art history survey. Students who have done well in the history courses or studio arts are especially encouraged to enroll. This is a year long course and prepares students for taking the AP Art History exam.

4960 AP (Advanced Placement) European History - Grade 10-12. Year long. Weighted grade. The purpose of this full-year elective is to give students an opportunity to explore in-depth themes of modern European history from the High Renaissance to the recent past. Students who are particularly interested in a more in-depth approach, developing an understanding of the importance of analyzing historical documents, and expressing this understanding in writing would benefit from this course. The AP European History course prepares students for the AP examination and intermediate and advanced college course work. A summer reading and writing assignment must be completed prior to the course. In order to take this course, a sophomore should have an A in World Geography or an A or B in Honors World History. If students plan to take AP European and AP US History, it is recommended that they take AP European first as a sophomore. A summer project and assignments outside of the school day required.

4958 AP (Advanced Placement) Government and Politics - Grade 11-12. Year long. Weighted grade. Prerequisite is American History. This introductory college-level course provides students with conceptual tools necessary to develop an understanding of the world's diverse political structure and practices. With a focus on American government and politics during the first semester, and comparative governmental systems during the second semester, the course encompasses the study of specific countries, their governments, and their political climates. Summer project and assignments outside of the school day are required. Upon successful completion of this course, students may take AP exams in U.S. Government and /or Comparative Politics. This year-long course satisfies Federal and State Constitutional graduation requirements and satisfies the Government graduation requirement.

4915 AP (Advanced Placement) Human Geography – Grade 9-12. Year Long. Weighted grade. This year-long college level course focuses on the impact human populations have on the planet. Units of study include the cultural patterns of religion, ethnicity, and gender; the population patterns of migration, growth, and settlement; and the historical global patterns of economic development, agriculture, and urbanization. Students will develop the ability to think geographically and apply the skills and tools of a geographer to analyze the world. Field studies to local areas are used as learning opportunities. This course is designed to represent an introductory one-semester human geography college course and will prepare students to take the AP Human Geography exam. This course **does not** satisfy the world history/world geography graduation requirement.

4944 AP (Advanced Placement) Psychology - Grade 11-12. One semester (2nd sem. only). Weighted grade. Prerequisite is Psychology I. Building upon the principles of Psychology I, this course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in psychology. The course will prepare students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those of

full year introductory psychology courses. The content will focus on advanced experimental design, biological functioning, sensation and perception, motivation and emotion, developmental psychology, psychological disorders and their treatments, and social psychology. Intensive reading and writing skills will be a major focus, as will hands-on research and experimentation. This course will prepare the students to take the AP Psychology exam.

4924 AP (Advanced Placement) United States History - Grade 11-12. Year long. Weighted grade. Prerequisite is World History or World Geography. This course in American history is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in American history. The course will prepare students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those of full-year introductory college courses. Students could receive college credit in American History by qualifying on an examination administered by the College Entrance Examination Board at the conclusion of the course. A summer requirement involving reading and writing assignments must be successfully completed prior to the first day of class. This course satisfies a graduation requirement.

4912 AP (Advanced Placement) World History- Grade 9-12. Year long. Weighted grade. Covering from 8,000 BC to the present, this full-year college level history course requires students to master factual knowledge as well as develop analytical skills necessary to be a historian. Specific themes are used as a framework to analyze regions around the globe including Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. Throughout the year, students will use documents and primary sources, make comparisons across cultures, and develop the vital habits of mind required to be successful on the AP World History exam. This course imposes a heavy reading and writing workload throughout the year. The demands on students are equivalent to a full-year introductory college course therefore AP World History is considered much more rigorous than Honors World History. AP World History covers more topics at a faster pace requiring students to enter the course with very high reading, writing and critical thinking skills. A summer reading and writing project must be completed prior to the course. Any incoming freshmen that wish to enroll in this course must be recommended by their 8th grade English and history teacher. This course satisfies the World History/ World Geography graduation requirement.

4906 Government - Grade 12. One semester. Government introduces the student to the basic principles of political science. Emphasis is placed on students becoming part of an active citizenry. The semester course covers the foundations of government, the Constitution, political parties, campaigns, and the three branches of American Government. Group and individual projects are utilized. This class is required for graduation. Federal and State Constitutional graduation requirements will be covered in this course. This course satisfies the Government graduation requirement.

4910 Honors World History - Grade 9. Year long. Weighted grade. This year-long course is presented from a geographical, political, and cultural point of view. The first semester begins with Ancient Egypt and concludes with the European Middle Ages. The second semester presents the rise of nation states, age of exploration, western imperialism, the Industrial Revolution, and concludes with the First World War. The course emphasizes analytical thought and is recommended for advanced students. Honors World History is taught at a very fast pace and students are required to master difficult readings, organize and write essays independently, and apply critical thinking skills in all of their work. Independent learning and self-motivation are required. This course satisfies the World History/ World Geography graduation requirement.

4956 Military History - Grade 11-12. One semester. This course is designed to deal with the various aspects of warfare throughout human history. Topics include the nature of war, concepts of tactics and strategy, technology and methods of warfare, great military leaders, crucial battles and their effect on history, as well as the present and future trends in warfare.

4940 Psychology I - Grade 11-12. One semester. Psychology is the study of the behavior of living things. This course will provide students with an understanding of their own behavior, as well as the behavior of other individuals in society. Students will receive an overview of the many subfields of psychology including: an introduction to the scientific method, study of the brain, sleep and dreams, learning theory, memory, intelligence, personality, mental health and abnormal behaviors. This is a college-prep course which requires challenging reading. There will be an emphasis on student-centered projects. Opportunities will also be available to work with the "Kid-to-Kid" program.

4942 Psychology and Group Behavior - Grade 11-12. One semester. Placement by department. Psychology and Group Behavior is a basic level course combining the theories of psychology and sociology, allowing students to develop a perspective on their own life experiences and their relationship to the structure of our society and its pressures. The content will focus on personality theory, group and family interaction, mental illness, therapy, cultural awareness, and socialization issues. "Hands-on" learning, class discussions, role-playing, guest speakers, lectures, projects, and paperbacks relevant to the above topics will be incorporated. This course is in lieu of Psychology I (4940) and/or Sociology (4930).

4930 Sociology - Grade 11-12. One semester. Sociology will provide students with the basic concepts and tools necessary for understanding human social behavior in a complex world. The course examines the structures and functions of society from a purely sociological perspective and then examines current social issues in America. Topics to be covered include;

culture, socialization, class status, urbanization, religion, family, prejudice, discrimination, and crime. This is a college prep course which requires challenging reading.

4952 United States Geography - *Grade 11-12. One semester.* This course is designed to provide students with geographical knowledge of the United States studied from both a regional and an urban approach. Various geographic topics are studied such as human geography, environmental issues, cartography skills, and the geography of Illinois. Supplemental reading is required.

4922 United States History Traditional - *Grade 10-11. Year long. Prerequisite is World History or World Geography.* This course is a comprehensive study focusing on major themes and concepts essential to understanding American economic, political, and social institutions. Learning emphasizes analytical writing, interpreting historical documents, developing both written and oral communication skills, understanding cause and effect relationships, discovering the significance of people, places and events impacting U.S. History, and applying historical principles in today's world. First semester explores the foundations of the U.S. includes the Constitution, Minorities, Innovations, Chicago History, and Reform. The second semester explores the 20th Century by decades and traces the development of the U.S. both internally and as a global power. Key topics include morality in the 1920's, the Great Depression, the Homefront during WWII, the struggle for Civil Rights, the Vietnam Era and contemporary issues. This course satisfies the American History graduation requirement.

4902 World Geography - *Grade 9. Year long.* The study of world geography provides students with a strong foundation for future social studies courses. Students will learn about the complex interrelation of physical, cultural, and economic geography. An emphasis is placed on the historical and political changes occurring within each region of study and the impact the geographic factors have on the day-to-day lives of people. The following regions of the world will be covered: Russia and the Republics, the Middle East, Africa, India, China, Japan, South East Asia, and Australia. Throughout the course students will also analyze and develop a deeper understanding of a wide range of global issues: human rights, genocide, disease, overpopulation, resources, environmental dangers, world trade, emerging nationhood, and independence. The major world religions will also be studied. Students will develop critical thinking, reading, writing, and speaking skills. Regular homework reading beyond the textbook will be required. This course satisfies the World History/ World Geography graduation requirement.