

# 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. Students who successfully complete Social Studies AP courses and their respective AP examinations may receive college credit and/or higher placement in college.

## SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE LISTINGS

### COURSES THAT SATISFY THE S.S. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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COURSE#	TITLE	LEVEL	PREREQUISITE
SOCS1005	World Geography	Yr. 9	None
SOCS1006H	Honors World History	Yr. 9	None
SOCS1006A	AP World History	Yr. 9-12	None
SOCS1007A	AP Human Geography	Yr. 9-12	None
ENGL2022B	American Society (Block with English 2)	Yr. 10	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS2000	American Studies	Yr. 10-12	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS2008	U.S. History	Yr. 10-12	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS3011A	AP U.S. History	Yr. 11-12	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS4000	Government	Sem. 12	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS3014A	AP Government and Politics	Yr. 11-12	An American History Course

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### ELECTIVE COURSES

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COURSE#	TITLE	LEVEL	PREREQUISITE
SOCS3015A	AP European History	Yr. 10-12	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS2010	Military History	Sem. 10-12	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS2009	U.S. Geography	Sem. 10-12	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS3016	Sociology	Sem. 11-12	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS3012	Psychology	Sem. 11-12	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS3013	Psychology & Group Behavior	Sem. 11-12	A Freshman Social Studies Course
SOCS3013A	AP Psychology	Sem. 11-12	Psychology

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# SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## SOCS1005 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. 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, globalization, 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 freshman Social Studies graduation requirement.

## SOCS1006H 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 freshman Social Studies graduation requirement.

SOCS1006A AP WORLD HISTORY *Grade 9-12. Year-long. Weighted grade.* Covering from 8000 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 an 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 in Advanced Placement courses. This course imposes a heavy reading and writing workload, and the demands on students are equivalent to a full-year introductory college course. AP World History covers topics at a faster pace than Honors World History, requiring students to enter the course with high reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Summer work may be offered to help students successfully prepare for the rigorous and extensive coursework. This course satisfies the freshmen Social Studies graduation requirement. Students who successfully complete this course and the AP World History examination may receive college credit and/or higher placement in college.

## SOCS1007A AP 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. Summer work may be offered to help students successfully prepare for the rigorous and extensive coursework that will be expected throughout the school year. This course satisfies the freshman Social Studies graduation requirement. Students who successfully complete this course and the AP Human Geography examination may receive college credit and/or higher placement in college.

ENGL2022B AMERICAN SOCIETY TWO-PERIOD BLOCK OF AMERICAN HISTORY/ENGLISH 2 *Grade 10. Year-long. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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 2 graduation requirement.

SOCS2000 AMERICAN STUDIES *Grade 10-12. Year-long. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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 reading, 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.

SOCS2008 UNITED STATES HISTORY *Grade 10-12. Year-long. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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. This course satisfies the American History graduation requirement.

SOCS3011A AP UNITED STATES HISTORY *Grade 11-12. Year-long. Weighted grade. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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. Summer work may be offered to help students successfully prepare for the rigorous and extensive coursework that will be expected throughout the school year. This course satisfies the American History graduation requirement. Students who successfully complete this course and the AP United States History examination may receive college credit and/or higher placement in college.

SOCS4000 GOVERNMENT *Grade 12. One semester. May be taken concurrently with U.S. History with Instructor approval.*

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 American government, the Constitution, political parties, campaigns, and the three branches of American Government. State and local governments are also studied. Group and individual projects are utilized. This course satisfies federal and state constitutional graduation requirements, as well as the government graduation requirement.

SOCS3014A AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS *Grade 11-12. Year-long. Weighted grade. Prerequisite is an American History course.*

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 work may be offered to help students successfully prepare for the rigorous and extensive coursework that will be expected throughout the school year. This year-long course satisfies federal and state constitutional graduation requirements and satisfies the government graduation requirement. Students who successfully complete this course and the AP Government and Politics examinations (AP U.S. Government and AP Comparative Government) may receive college credit and/or higher placement in college.

SOCS3015A AP EUROPEAN HISTORY *Grade 10-12. Year-long. Weighted grade. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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. If students plan to take both AP European and AP US History, it is recommended they take AP European first as a sophomore. Summer work may be offered to help students successfully prepare for the rigorous and extensive coursework that will be expected throughout the school year. Students who successfully complete this course and the AP European History examination may receive college credit and/or higher placement in college.

SOCS2010 MILITARY HISTORY *Grade 10-12. One semester. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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, and present and future trends in warfare.

SOCS2009 UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHY *Grade 10-12. One semester. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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

SOCS3016 SOCIOLOGY *Grade 11-12. One semester. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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 preparatory course containing challenging reading.

SOCS3012 PSYCHOLOGY 1 *Grade 11-12. One semester. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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 may also be available to work with the "Kid-to-Kid" program.

SOCS3013 PSYCHOLOGY AND GROUP BEHAVIOR *Grade 11-12. One semester. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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 1 (SOCS3012) and/or Sociology (SOCS3016).

SOCS3013A AP PSYCHOLOGY *Grade 11-12. One semester (2nd sem. only). Weighted grade. Prerequisite is Psychology 1.*

Building upon the principles of Psychology 1, 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.

*SOCS3012 PSYCHOLOGY 1 Grade 11-12. One semester. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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 may also be available to work with the “Kid-to-Kid” program.

*SOCS3013 PSYCHOLOGY AND GROUP BEHAVIOR Grade 11-12. One semester. Prerequisite is prior completion of a Social Studies course.*

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 books relevant to the above topics will be incorporated. *NOTE: This course is in lieu of Psychology 1 (SOCS3012) and/or Sociology (SOCS3016).*

*SOCS3013A AP PSYCHOLOGY Grade 11-12. One semester (This course is offered second semester only). Weighted grade. Prerequisite is Psychology 1.*

Building upon the principles of Psychology 1, 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. Students who successfully complete this course and the AP Psychology exam