

# SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Name	9	10	11	12
Geography and Global Studies	R			
AP Human Geography*	E	E	E	E
World History: Human Experience		R		
AP World History *		E	E	E
US History			R	
AP US History *			E	E
Contemporary World Issues	E	E	E	E
China: A Changing Nation			E	E
American History: Vietnam War			E	E
Psychology			E	E
AP Psychology*			E	E
Social Problems			E	E
AP Economics *			E	E
AP U.S. Government & Politics *			E	E
E = Elective Course      R= Required Course      * = Honors Course				

## Geography and Global Studies

*0.5 Credit: Semester*

*Prerequisite: None*

As the nations of our world grow ever more interdependent and connected, it becomes increasingly important to expand our knowledge and understanding of the world and its people. This course will include the study of the fundamentals of geography and elements of culture in the investigation of many regions of the world. Students will be exposed to a variety of nations and regions across the globe. Through exploration of culture, government, economy, geography, and current affairs, students will increase their appreciation for and understanding of other people throughout the world. This course includes simulations, cooperative group work, films, lectures, debates, and technology. The main forms of assessment will be tests, quizzes, projects, and papers. In addition, students are expected to participate in class discussions and activities.

## AP Human Geography - Honors

*1.0 Credit: Yearlong*

*Prerequisite: None*

In this year-long course students will cultivate their understanding of human geography through data and geographic analysis as they explore topics like patterns and spatial organization, human impacts and interactions with their environment, and spatial processes and societal changes.

## World History: Human Experience

*1.0 Credit: Yearlong*

*Prerequisite: Sophomore Status*

This course centers on world history, cultures, and contemporary events. By focusing on cause and effect, students will journey from the past to the present, including a discussion of contemporary issues within a historical framework. Students will achieve essential understandings through the study of significant people, events, documents, legislation, current events, and customs. The concepts of global connections, citizenship, geography and environment, the individual and society, economics, power and leadership, and technology are the underlying themes that will be studied throughout/

## **AP World History - Honors**

*1.0 Credit: Yearlong*

*Prerequisite: Sophomore Status*

This one-year course is designed with an emphasis on meeting the requirements of the College Board Advanced Placement Human World History examination. This college-level curriculum teaches students to view history thematically. AP World History is organized around six overarching themes that serve to unify threads throughout the course, helping students to relate what is particular about each time period or society to a “big picture” of history. The themes also provide a way to organize comparisons and analyze change and continuity over time. Consequently, virtually all study of history in this course will be tied back to these themes by utilizing a “S.P.I.C.E.-T.” acronym: Social development and transformation of social structures; Political-State building, expansion and conflict; Interaction between humans and their environment; Cultural development and interaction of cultures; Economic creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems throughout the world; and Technological development and diffusion. This course is open to all sophomores with consent of instructor.

## **US History**

*1.0 Credit: Yearlong*

*Prerequisite: Junior Status*

US History is a survey of important events in American history from the post-Revolutionary era through modern times. Students will study the major events and people that have shaped the United States as we know it today. Events such as the formation of a constitutional government, slavery and the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Industrialization of America, the Progressive Movement, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, Vietnam, and events of the 80's, 90's, and 2000's. At the beginning of the course, special attention will be given to the foundations of American government, including its structure, purpose, and function. This course includes simulations, cooperative group work, films, lectures, debates, and technology. The main forms of assessment will be tests, quizzes, projects, and papers.

## **AP US History - Honors**

*1.0 Credit: Yearlong*

*Prerequisite: Junior Status*

This course and examination in United States History are intended for qualified students who wish to complete studies in high school that are equivalent to college introductory courses in US History. This course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and the factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in US history. Students will be able to call on a variety of information to support critical analysis. The course will include extensive chronological coverage, close examination of a series of problems, and in-depth interpretations of famous US documents.

## **Contemporary World Issues**

*0.5 Credit: Semester*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course will provide the student with an introduction to the contemporary world and its origin beginning with the formation of the nation-state, the course will study balance of power, the formation of foreign policy, terrorism, foreign aid, terrorism, propaganda, war, and more. The class will include analysis of current events in the context of our study.

## **China: A Changing Nation**

*0.5 Credit: Semester*

*Prerequisite: Junior Status; completion of freshman and sophomore social studies course requirements*

This course will provide an in-depth study of China; its history and its role in contemporary society. Students will analyze the economic impact China has had on the world from the development of the Silk Road and early interdependence of trade to the economic changes under communism and finally to modern times. Students will evaluate the changes in culture, language, religions, foods, and fashions. As one of the remaining communist-led nations, the United States needs to understand China's role in the United Nations, Taiwan, control of Asia and growth and influence of their power and military strength throughout the world.

## **American History: Vietnam War**

*0.5 Credit: Semester*

*Prerequisite: Junior Status; completion of freshman and sophomore social studies course requirements*

This course is designed to allow students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of a time in United States history that is unique, yet tied to current events. They will develop deeper research skills and analyze a time in our history that is still controversial. Students will build on what they have studied in their required survey courses at the freshman, sophomore, and junior level. Using the five strands of Social Studies, (history, geography, economics, citizenship, and culture) students will work independently and in the course to study the history of Vietnam, Imperialism, the beginning of US intervention, the incidents that began US involvement, how the war was fought, major battles, dissent on the home front, and the end of the war. The political actions and people who played a role in the war will also be highlighted. The worldviews of the war and the final legacy of the police action will be analyzed.

## **Psychology**

*0.5 Credit: Semester*

*Prerequisite: Junior Status*

This course is designed to provide a general introduction to a broad variety of psychological topics. A study of behaviors and mental processes will be studied through various psychological perspectives, including the psychoanalytic, biological, cognitive, behavioral, sociocultural, and humanistic schools of thought. Key terms, concepts, leaders, and principles of psychology are introduced. Topics such as the history of the study, consciousness, sensation, perception, motivation, and emotion, learning, and personality.

## **AP Psychology - Honors**

*1.0 Credit: Yearlong*

*Prerequisite: Junior Status*

This course will introduce the student to ideas, theories, and methods of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. You'll examine the concepts of psychology through reading and discussion and you'll analyze data from psychological research studies.

## **Social Problems**

*0.5 Credit: Semester*

*Prerequisite: Junior Status*

This course combines the study of people in groups and the problems of society. The course goal is to become better aware of current social problems; defining what they are, why they exist, and what is being done about them. The course will also evaluate policies attempting to deal with these problems.

## **AP Economics - Honors**

*1.0 Credit: Yearlong*

*Prerequisite: Junior Status*

This course will introduce the student to those principles essential to the understanding of the fundamental economic problem; from the perspective of the individual firm in microeconomics and then the entire economy in macroeconomics. 6 college credits may be earned by passing the College Board Advanced Placement Test at the end of the year.

## **AP US Government & Politics - Honors**

*1.0 Credit: Yearlong*

*Prerequisite: Junior Status*

This one-year course is designed with an emphasis on meeting the requirements of the College Board Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics examination. This AP course studies the operations and structures of the U.S. government and the behavior of the electorate and politicians. Students will gain an analytic perspective necessary to critically evaluate political data, hypotheses, concepts, opinions, and processes. Students will learn how to gather data about political behavior and develop their own theoretical analysis of American politics. Students will build skills needed to examine general propositions about government and politics, and analyze the specific relationships between political, social and economic institutions. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP U.S. Government, and Politics prepares students not only for the AP Exam but also for further study in political science, law, education, business, and history. This course is intended primarily for juniors, but exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis and consent of instructor