

# Social Studies



## Philosophy Statement

The Social Studies Department is committed to educating students to become discerning, intelligent, and compassionate citizens in our democracy. It is also entrusted with the responsibility of fostering an awareness and appreciation of the people and cultures of the world.

## Social Studies

*Course Descriptions*

### Advanced Placement European History

*Course No.: 4202*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 1.0 / Full Year*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 10, 11, 12*  
*Other:*

**Advanced Placement European History** has been structured to provide a college level survey of European History and to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam. The course is a chronological approach (1450 to the present) of the subject that focuses on various European historical themes, some of which include political/diplomatic events, intellectual development, cultural evolution and economic and social trends. Significant writing and research will be an integral part of the course work.

### Advanced Placement Government

*Course No.: 4203F, 4204S*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 12*

*Other: Students taking this course during semester 1 will have the opportunity to attend review sessions prior to taking the exam.*

**Advanced Placement Government** has been structured to provide a college survey of the fundamentals of the United States Constitution, the evolutionary development of the political process, and the rights and responsibilities of United States citizenship. This course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam. Significant reading, writing, and research will be an integral part of the course work.

### Advanced Placement Macroeconomics

*Course No.: 4206S*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 0.5 / Semester 2 only*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 12*  
*Other: Passing this course meets the Consumer Education requirement for graduation.*

**Advanced Placement Macroeconomics** has been structured to provide a college level survey of Macroeconomics and to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam. The purpose of this course is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. It places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. Significant reading, writing, and research will be an integral part of the course work.

### Advanced Placement Psychology

*Course No.: 4212*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 12*  
*Other:*

**Advanced Placement Psychology** is an in-depth survey course of this discipline. The course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students will be exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. It includes physiological psychology, child and adolescent development, abnormal psychology, perception, elements of social psychology, and other psychological topics of interest.

### **Advanced Placement United States History**

*Course No.: 4208*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 1.0 / Full Year*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 11, 12*  
*Other:*

**Advanced Placement United States History** has been structured to provide a college level survey of United States history and to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam. The course is a lecture-based, chronological approach to the subject. Significant writing and research will be an integral part of the course work. In addition, during the summer prior to the beginning of the course, each student is required to read an assigned book that gives an in-depth analysis of a topic as well as an introduction to history methodology. In the fall, several early discussions and assignments will be based on this book. (The title of the selected book is available on the Social Studies department web page each May.)

### **Current Issues**

*Course No.: 4210S*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 0.5 / Semester 2 only*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 10, 11, 12*  
*Other:*

**Current Issues** provides an opportunity to study and analyze a wide variety of vital present-day world topics. Emphasis is placed on oral presentations, classroom discussions, and written research assignments. Instruction includes the use of the library, Internet, and research materials.

### **English Language Learner United States History**

*Course No.: 4220*  
*Prerequisite: Placement*  
*Credit: 1.0 / Full Year*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 11, 12*  
*Other:*

**ELL United States History** is a course for identified ELL students. It is a broad survey of the major social, economic and cultural events, concepts and themes that have been the forces in the development of the United States. This standard United States History course is modified to meet the needs of students unfamiliar with the basic factual, cultural and conceptual elements of United States history and government.

### **Geography**

*Course No.: 4226*  
*Prerequisite: Placement for grade 9; none for grade 10*  
*Credit: 1.0 / Full Year*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 9, 10*  
*Other:*

**Geography** is an introduction to the study of people of the world and their ways of life. The introductory unit emphasizes map and globe use and reading including place location and the interpretation of geographical data. Political and economic systems, climate and vegetation patterns, physical regions and other man-land topics are studied. With this background, the remainder of the course is devoted to the study of the various culture regions of the world. A mapping/writing research project is required each semester.

### **Geography Honors**

*Course No.: 4228*  
*Prerequisite: Placement for grade 9; none for grade 10*  
*Credit: 1.0 / Full Year*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 9, 10*  
*Other:*

**Geography Honors** is an advanced introduction to the study of the people of the world and their ways of life. The introductory unit emphasizes map and globe use and reading including place location and the interpretation of geographical data. Political and economic systems, climate and vegetation patterns, physical regions and other man-land topics are studied. With this background, the course is devoted to the study of the nations of the world. Detailed examinations of topics related to cultural geography are studied throughout the course. A research project is required each semester.

### **Government**

*Course No.: 4231F, 4232S*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 12*  
*Other:*

**Government** includes the fundamentals of the United States Constitution, state and local government, the evolutionary development of the political process, and the rights and responsibilities of United States citizenship. This is the standard course into which most students will be enrolled.

## **International Studies**

*Course No.: 4241F*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 0.5 / Semester 1 only*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 10, 11, 12*  
*Other:*

**International Studies** is a survey of the non-western world including Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Culture, social and economic organization, ethics and belief systems are examined. World events and class interest will impact course studies. A research paper is assigned.

## **Law**

*Course No.: 4245F, 4246S*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 11, 12*  
*Other:*

**Law** class gives the student an overview of law in the United States. Students will learn and understand basic concepts of law that may include torts, contracts, family law, consumer law, criminal law, and individual rights. Since law evolves constantly and specific law concepts are often controversial, class participation and discussion will be a major component of the course. Time permitting, guest speakers with different law backgrounds will give students a first-hand look at how law applies throughout society.

## **Psychology**

*Course No.: 4251F, 4252S*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 0.5 / Semesters 1 and 2*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 12*  
*Other:*

**Psychology** is a basic survey course of this discipline. It includes physiological psychology, child and adolescent development, abnormal psychology, perception, elements of social psychology, and other psychological topics of interest.

## **Sociology**

*Course No.: 4257F*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 0.5 / Semester 1 only*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 11, 12*  
*Other:*

**Sociology** is the study of the effects of the environment on human behavior. Possible areas of study include, but are not limited to culture, social structure, socialization, sex roles, social interaction, organizations and bureaucracy, social deviance, stratification, ethnic relationships, institutions, and contemporary issues.

## **United States History**

*Course No.: 4262*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 1.0 / Full Year*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 11, 12*  
*Other:*

**United States History** is a broad survey of the major social, economic, political, and cultural events, concepts, and themes that have been the forces in the development of the United States. This is the standard course into which most students will be enrolled. Research work is required each semester.

## **United States History Honors**

*Course No.: 4264*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 1.0 / Full Year*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 11, 12*  
*Other:*

**United States History Honors** is a broad survey of the major social, economic, political, and cultural events, concepts, and themes that have been forces in the development of the United States. This course emphasizes the use of primary resources, more individual writing assignments, and greater in-depth analysis of the issues and concepts such as revolution, economics, nationalism, sectionalism, imperialism, democracy and activism. Research work and writing are assigned each semester. In addition, during the summer prior to the beginning of this course, each student is required to read at least **one** book from a department reading list (this list is available on the Social Studies Department web page each May). This course is intended for the high ability student. The Advanced Placement American History exam is available.

## **World History**

*Course No.: 4272*  
*Prerequisite: None*  
*Credit: 1.0 / Full Year*  
*Fees:*  
*Grades: 10*  
*Other:*

**World History** examines the major trends in history, economics, and culture from a global perspective. Contemporary issues are included to show relationships between the past and present. This course is suggested for the student seeking to understand the dynamics of the world's future. Students will learn to analyze, evaluate and interpret historical events and trends. Research work and writing are assigned each semester.

## **World History Honors**

*Course No.: 4274*

*Prerequisite: Placement for grade 9; none for grade 10*

*Credit: 1.0 / Full Year*

*Fees:*

*Grades: 9, 10*

*Other:*

**World History Honors** examines the major trends in history, economics, literature, art, and culture from a global perspective. Contemporary issues are included to show relationships between the past and present. This course is suggested for the student seeking a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the world's future. More individual writing, outside resources and in-depth analysis of topics are emphasized. Students will learn to analyze, evaluate and interpret historical events and trends. Research work and writing are assigned each semester.

# Social Studies Department

## Course Sequences

9	10	11	12
Geography	Geography	United States History	* Government
Geography Honors	Geography Honors	United States History Honors	* AP Government
World History Honors	World History	AP United States History	* ELL Government
	World History Honors	ELL United States History	AP European History
	AP European History	AP European History	* AP Macroeconomics
	* International Studies	* Law	* Psychology / AP Psychology
	* Current Issues	* Sociology	* Law
		* International Studies	* Sociology
		* Current Issues	* International Studies
			* Current Issues

\* Semester Course