

Social Studies Course Descriptions



CORE COURSES

#0120 World Studies

Grade 9 / Full Year Course – 2.0 credits

*NCAA approved course

World Studies is a foundational social studies course that introduces students to their world through the blend of a historical approach and a look at 21st century global issues that impact the international community. The course is framed primarily around the history of western civilization, yet addresses the historical and cultural relevance of other regions of the world. In addition, the course offers students the opportunity to examine modern-day global challenges that are thematically linked to the historical content they have learned. Development of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills, in the context of the social studies, will be emphasized.

Rationale: World Studies is a required course for graduation and provides a foundation for subsequent required social studies courses in terms of content and skill development. It is the course in the social studies sequence that provides the most robust global perspective and begins developing in students a sense of global citizenship.

#995A/#995B Learning Cohort

Grade 9 / Full Year Course – 1.0 Credit

The Learning Cohort is a component of the Freshman Cohort program. Cohort students and faculty collaborate during this period in a variety of ways: test review sessions, academic testing, small group work, reading enrichment, one-on-one writing conferencing and revision, etc. This class distinguishes itself from a study hall in that students have daily access to Cohort teachers from three key content areas: English, reading and social studies. In addition, this class offers a variety of resources including computers and textbooks. The Learning Cohort also differs from traditional study hall in that students are expected to participate in review and enrichment activities at the discretion of the Cohort teachers; additional time may be used to

consult with teachers and complete independent work. Since this is a collaborative class, students are required to maintain an academic environment. While not required, students identified for the Cohort are strongly encouraged to enroll in the Learning Cohort period.

Students in the Cohort enroll in English 9 (#0013) and World Studies (#0120) and an additional period of reading enrichment: Academic Literacy (#0027).

Additional information about the Freshman Cohort is available on the York website:

<http://york.elmhurst205.org/>

#0125 Bilingual World Studies

Grade 9 / Full Year Course – 2.0 credits

Prerequisite: Students must be enrolled in the ELL program

World Studies is a foundational social studies course that introduces students to their world through the blend of a historical approach and a look at 21st century global issues that impact the international community. The course is framed primarily around the history of western civilization, yet addresses the historical and cultural relevance of other regions of the world. In addition, the course offers students the opportunity to examine modern-day global challenges that are thematically linked to the historical content they have learned. Instruction will be in Spanish. Development of critical thinking skills and of the four language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), in the context of the social studies, will be emphasized. *This course fulfills the World Studies graduation requirement for ELL and Heritage Spanish students.*

Rationale: ELL students will be receiving instruction of content that is comparable to mainstream students; however, the language of instruction will be Spanish so that it is more accessible to students who are still acquiring general and academic English skills.

#0123 ELL World Studies

Grade 9 / Full Year Course – 2.0 credits

Prerequisite: Students must be enrolled in the ELL program

*NCAA approved course

World Studies is a foundational social studies course that introduces students to their world through the blend of a historical approach and a look at 21st century global issues that impact the international community. The course is framed primarily around the history of western civilization, yet addresses the historical and cultural relevance of other regions of the world. In addition, the course offers students the opportunity to examine modern-day global challenges that are thematically linked to the historical content they have learned. Development of critical thinking skills and of the four language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), in the context of the social studies, will be emphasized. *This course fulfills the World Studies graduation requirement for ELL students.*

Rationale: ELL students will be receiving instruction of content that is comparable to mainstream students; however, the language of instruction will be sheltered so that it is more accessible to students who are still acquiring general and academic English skills.

#0171 American Government

Grade 10 / 1 Semester – 1.0 credit

*NCAA approved course

American Government is the second course in the social studies core course sequence. It provides a blend of political science, government and civic curricular goals. In practical ways, students learn about the constitutional structure and behavioral trends in the American political system. Areas of study include political ideology, the electoral process, policymaking, constitutional interpretation and the analysis of current events. A special focus is placed on fostering an individual sense of civic duty and pride. In addition, this course emphasizes the frequent use of higher order thinking skills in its examination of the American system of government and strives to cultivate in students a nuanced, analytical mindset. Development of reading, writing, speaking, listening and research skills, in the context of the social studies, will be emphasized. Successful completion of this course fulfills the state mandated U.S. and Illinois Constitution tests.

Rationale: American Government is a required course for graduation that provides a bridge between World Studies and United States History. In conjunction with these other two courses, it provides a solid foundation for York students to be engaged, informed and judicious citizens.

#0168 AP United States Government and Politics

Grades 10-12 / 1 Semester High Weighted Course – 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: A/B average in all previous high school work or social studies teacher recommendation

*NCAA approved course

This course is designed to provide students with an extensive understanding of the foundations and concepts that encompass the American political system. AP United States Government and Politics is designed to be the high school equivalent of a college-level general government course, thus preparing students for success on the AP Exam. Major topics studied in the course are the constitutional underpinnings of government, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties and interest groups, institutions and policy processes of national government, and civil rights and civil liberties. Political theory and philosophy, as well as the structure of government, will be examined through contemporary issues on a national level. This course fulfills the American Government graduation requirement as well as the state mandated U.S. and Illinois Constitution tests.

Rationale: College-bound students interested in majoring in political science, law, law enforcement or philosophy would benefit from taking this course. Performance on the AP Exam will provide many students with the opportunity to receive college credit and/or appropriate college course placement.

#0124 ELL American Government

Grade 10 / 1 Semester – 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Students must be enrolled in the ELL program

*NCAA approved course

American Government is the second course in the social studies core course sequence. It provides a blend of political science, government and civic curricular goals. In practical ways, students learn about the constitutional structure and behavioral trends in the American political system. Areas of study include political ideology, the electoral process, policymaking, constitutional interpretation and the analysis of current events. A special focus is placed on fostering an individual sense of civic duty and pride. In addition, this course emphasizes the frequent use of higher order thinking skills in its examination of the American system of government and strives to cultivate in students a nuanced, analytical mindset. Development of research skills and of the four language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), in the context of the social studies, will be emphasized. This course fulfills the American Government graduation requirement for ELL students as well as the state mandated U.S. and Illinois Constitution tests.

Rationale: ELL students will be receiving instruction of content that is comparable to mainstream students; however, the language of instruction will be sheltered so that it is more accessible to students who are still acquiring general and academic English skills.

#0151 United States History

Grade 11 / Full Year Course – 2.0 credits

*NCAA approved course

United States History is the culminating course in the social studies core course sequence. It offers students a thought-provoking survey of the nation's history, with opportunities in each unit to study in more depth the events, issues or other historical phenomena of special significance in the American narrative. Students will make connections between events of the past and their ongoing impact on the near-present, thus developing a context for their emerging sense of civic responsibility. This course emphasizes the frequent use of higher order thinking skills in its approach to studying history and strives to foster in students a nuanced, analytical mindset. Reading, writing, speaking, listening and research skills, in the context of the social studies and in preparation for college, will be developed.

Rationale: United States History is a required course for graduation that provides students with the means to better understand the multiple factors that have shaped the society in which they live. In conjunction with the two other core courses, it provides a solid foundation for York students to be engaged, informed and judicious citizens.

#0186 AP United States History

Grades 11-12 / Full Year High Weighted Course – 2.0 credits
Prerequisite: A/B average in all previous high school work or social studies teacher recommendation

*NCAA approved course

This course is designed to provide students with an extensive understanding of the foundations and concepts of U.S. History. In addition, it is designed and sequenced as the high school equivalent of a college-level general government course, thus preparing students for the Advanced Placement Exam. Major themes studied in AP US History include but are not limited to American Diversity, American Identity, Culture, Politics and Citizenship, Reform, Religion, and Globalization. Course work includes research, evaluative and analytical skill development, which will also be utilized to assess student learning. *This course fulfills the U.S. History graduation requirement.*

Rationale: College-bound students interested in majoring in history, humanities, political science or philosophy would benefit from taking this course. Performance on the AP Exam will provide students with the opportunity to earn college credit and/or appropriate college course placement.

#0126 ELL United States History

Grade 11 / Full Year Course – 2.0 credits

Prerequisite: Students must be enrolled in the ELL program

*NCAA approved course

United States History is the culminating course in the social studies core course sequence. It offers students a thought-provoking survey of the nation's history, with opportunities in each unit to study in more depth the events, issues or other historical phenomena of special significance in the American narrative. Students will make connections between events of the past and their ongoing impact on the near-present, thus developing a context for their emerging sense of civic responsibility. This course emphasizes the frequent use of higher order thinking skills in its approach to studying history and strives to foster in students a nuanced, analytical mindset. Development of research skills and of the four language domains (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), in the context of the social studies and in preparation for college, will be emphasized. *This course fulfills the United States History graduation requirement for ELL students.*

Rationale: ELL students will be receiving instruction of content that is comparable to mainstream students; however, the language of instruction will be sheltered so that it is more accessible to students who are still acquiring general and academic English skills.

ELECTIVE COURSES

The following courses fulfill the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation. Courses are organized into four strands: Behavioral Sciences, History and Political Science, Law and Criminal Justice, and Research. Students may take multiple courses within a strand or sample courses from each strand.

Behavioral Sciences

#0181 Economics

Grades 10-12 / 1 Semester Course – 1.0 credit

Fulfills Consumer Education requirement for graduation.

*NCAA approved course

This course is an introductory survey of micro and macro economics. Scarcity, supply and demand, competition, the organization of business and government's regulatory role, money and banking, fiscal policy, taxation, public finance and international trade will be studied. Time is given to the theories of capitalism and command socialism. The course emphasizes the principles and tools of economic analysis to develop a better understanding of "real" world concepts. *Completion of this course fulfills the Consumer Education requirement OR the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation, but NOT both.*

Rationale: Economic activity pervades every aspect of life. Therefore, knowledge of economic concepts and systems should be a part of every citizen's education in today's world. This course offers a high degree of academic literacy for the student interested in a business career in marketing, management, investment banking or starting a business.

#0179 AP Microeconomics

Grades 11-12 / 1 Semester High Weighted Course – 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: A/B average in all previous high school work or social studies teacher recommendation

Fulfills Consumer Education requirement for graduation.

*NCAA approved course

AP Microeconomics is designed for students to understand how resources are used to satisfy people's wants. This one semester, college level course explores the individual components that make up our economy: the consumer, the business

firm and the government. Students will gain an understanding of economic concepts such as opportunity cost, supply and demand, marginality, markets and externalities. In-depth research and discussion of economic topics and current events will help students make sense of their world. Special focus will be placed on preparation for the AP Exam in May. Students must realize the importance of independent study. Success in this course and on the exam relies heavily on individual commitment from the student. Completion of this course fulfills the Consumer Education requirement OR the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation, but NOT both.

Rationale: College-bound students interested in majoring in economics, finance, business, political science, or similar fields would benefit from taking this course. Performance on the AP Exam will provide many students with the opportunity to receive college credit and/or appropriate college course placement.

#0185 AP Macroeconomics

Grades 11-12 / 1 Semester High Weighted Course – 1.0 credit
Prerequisite: A/B average in all previous high school work or social studies teacher recommendation
Fulfills Consumer Education requirement for graduation.
*NCAA approved course

AP Macroeconomics is designed for students to understand the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The countries of the world have become increasingly interdependent. Economic policy decisions made in the United States have implications for countries and its citizens thousands of miles away. In turn, we are affected by the policies of other countries. This interdependence forces us to become well-informed decision makers. This one semester, college level course explores basic economic concepts, measurement of economic performance, national income and price determination, the financial sector, inflation unemployment and stabilization policies, economic growth and productivity, and international trade and finance. Special focus will be placed on preparation for the AP Exam in May. Completion of this course fulfills the Consumer Education requirement OR the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation, but NOT both.

Rationale: College-bound students interested in majoring in economics, finance, business, political science, international relations or similar fields would benefit from taking this course. Performance on the AP Exam will provide many students with the opportunity to receive college credit and/or appropriate college course placement.

#0146 Sociology

Grades 10-12 / 1 Semester Course – 1.0 credit
*NCAA approved course

Do eyes and facial expression reveal a person's true thoughts? Why do social groups often dislike each other? Does televi-

sion lead people to violence and reduce their attention span? What causes prejudice? These and other questions are answered in Sociology. This class will focus on how people behave in groups. Films, simulations and role play activities help students develop social skills and knowledge that is essential for dealing with others. This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.

Rationale: Sociology is recommended for students contemplating a career in business, social work, law enforcement, social and/or market research or any other occupation involving interpersonal contact. Skills acquired in this course and knowledge of group dynamics provides a firm foundation for future study and real life applications.

#0141 Psychology

Grades 11-12 / 1 Semester Course – 1.0 credit
*NCAA approved course

The basic subject matter of psychology is behavior, a matter of vital concern to all of us. The news media frequently cite examples of psychological phenomena such as personality, emotional problems, drug use and abuse, racism, violence and sexuality. In this course we will examine such topics as learning, memory, perception, motivation, development, stress, intelligence and personality testing, abnormal behavior and therapy with an emphasis on applying these to individual behavior. This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.

Rationale: This course has a two-fold purpose. The first purpose is to give the student a better understanding of self and others so that he/she may have more satisfying relationships and function more efficiently. The second purpose is to familiarize the student with the subject of psychology for help in considering further educational plans.

#0162 AP Psychology

Grades 11-12 / Full Year High Weighted Course – 2.0 credits
Prerequisite: A/B average in all previous high school work or social studies teacher recommendation
*NCAA approved course

This course provides a detailed and demanding overview of the field of psychology and requires from its students a high degree of commitment and the use of effective independent learning skills. AP Psychology is designed to be the high school equivalent of a college-level general psychology course, thus preparing students for success on the AP Exam. A sound introduction to psychological practice and theory is afforded in each of the major subfields of the discipline, including personality, consciousness, biological psychology, lifespan development, learning, sensation and perception, emotion and motivation, cognition, experimental methods, memory, mental disorders, treatment methods and social psychology. Success in this course can be measured not only by academic performance, but also by the extent to

which students make meaningful applications of the subject matter for the betterment of their lives. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*

Rationale: College-bound students planning on majoring in any of the social sciences or health-related fields would benefit from this course. Performance on the AP Exam will provide many students with the opportunity to receive college credit and/or appropriate college course placement.

#0182 Philosophy

Grades 11-12 / 1 Semester Course – 1.0 credit

*NCAA approved course

Interested in a deeper look into the way we live our lives? This course is designed to expose students to the study of philosophy from the classics to the present. The objective of the course is to examine closely, discuss and write about the world and the moral and ethical challenges we face. Assignments will involve extensive research into the great questions that have faced mankind. Higher order thinking skills designed to elicit mature discussions about the meaning of life will be the standard. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*

Rationale: College-bound students planning on majoring in any of the social sciences would benefit from the kind of thinking they will be exposed to in this class.

History and Political Science

#0164 AP European History

Grades 10-12 / Full Year High Weighted Course – 2.0 credit

Prerequisite: A/B average in all previous high school work or social studies teacher recommendation

*NCAA approved course

This course is designed to provide students with relevant factual knowledge and an extensive understanding of European history from 1450 to the present. AP European History is designed to be the high school equivalent of a college-level general government course, thus preparing students for success on the AP Exam. Major topics studied in the course are developments in social, economic and political thought, the rise and functioning of the modern state in its various forms and the role of urbanization in transforming cultural values and social relationships. Students will develop research, evaluative and analytical skills that will be used to illustrate comprehension and understanding. This course also provides students with frequent practice in writing analytical and interpretive essays such as document based questions and thematic essays. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*

Rationale: College-bound students will benefit from taking this course. Students will develop reading, writing and ana-

lytical skills to prepare them for future AP/Honors courses. Performance on the AP Exam will provide many students with the opportunity to receive college credit and/or appropriate college course placement.

#0187 International Relations

Grades 11-12 / 1 Semester Course – 1.0 credit

*NCAA approved course

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the foundations and theories underlying international relations in the 21st century. Beginning with an examination of theories driving international relations in the 20th century, students will analyze modern issues and determine the ways in which traditional diplomacy applies or has been rendered obsolete in this global world. Coursework will also consider novel options in 21st century diplomacy. International Relations is designed to provide students with opportunities to examine modern issues via writing, presentations and simulations in order that they can hone their own diplomatic acumen. Major topics include diplomacy, geography, globalization, conflict resolution, global security, the rise of non-state actors and sustainable development. Students will develop research, evaluative and analytical skills which they will use to illustrate analysis and synthesis of the curricula. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*

Rationale: College-bound students interested in majoring in international relations, political science, international business, economics or regional studies would benefit from taking this course.

#0191 Military History

Grades 11-12 / 1 Semester Course – 1.0 credit

*NCAA approved course

This course will delve into both a tragic and fascinating recurring theme in the human story: armed conflict. From a primarily western civilization perspective, students will learn to think critically about war as it has occurred across time and continents. They will analyze how cultural, political, and social institutions have been causal agents of war as well as how they have been shaped by war. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*

Rationale: This elective will provide interested students the opportunity to further examine military-related topics discussed in World Studies and U.S. History. It will also provide a more robust historical context for understanding modern conflicts.

#0188 Women's Studies

Grades 11-12 / 1 Semester Course – 1.0 credit

*NCAA approved course

This course explores the history of women's experiences in American society. The course is taught thematically with

topics including, but not limited to, politics, labor, reproductive rights, military, education, sports and media/image. Women's Studies offers a serious examination of America from the woman's perspective. Additional goals include the enhancement of the woman's sense of self, the elimination of sexism, appreciation for women-centered values, a deepening awareness of the effects of gender on both sexes and an increased respect among women and between women and men. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*

Rationale: This elective will provide interested students the opportunity to further examine women's studies topics discussed in U.S. History. It will provide an academic context for understanding modern issues concerning gender equality.

Law and Criminal Justice

#0145 Criminology

Grades 10-12 / 1 Semester Course – 1.0 credit

*NCAA approved course

This course examines current thinking about the causes of crime and delinquency, as well as methods of punishments and correction. The student will study topics such as aggression, influence of the media, role of the family, urban conditions, types of crime, gun control, gangs and prisons. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*

Rationale: Students interested in topics related to crime and punishment and/or those interested in a career in law enforcement, social work or the legal profession would find this a good introduction to one of the most important issues in American society.

#0173 Law in American Society

Grades 11-12 / 1 Semester Course – 1.0 credit

*NCAA approved course

It is essential to have an awareness of the laws that protect us as well as those that restrict us. Students will develop a basic understanding of our legal system, its terminology and its procedures. An emphasis will be placed on analyzing real world issues and court cases that relate to our rights as citizens. Students will examine landmark Supreme Court decisions as well as criminal cases. The class will rely heavily on class discussion and insight. Specific topics include civil law, court procedure, rules of evidence, search and seizure and rights when arrested. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*

Rationale: This class will expose students to skills and content that will prove useful for those considering careers in law, criminal justice, and other public occupations.

#0189 Constitutional Law Honors

Grades 11-12 / 1 Semester High Weighted Course – 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: A/B average in all previous high school work or Social Studies teacher recommendation

*NCAA approved course

This course will study the fundamental basis of the American legal system: the United States Constitution. Students will study the tenets of American constitutional law as well as the historical and current debates about the scope and meaning of the Constitution in relation to the Supreme Court's role in the governing of the United States. Supreme Court decisions will be analyzed with consideration for the historical context, past interpretation, and the Court's overall consistency in following precedent. Students will be able to look at current Supreme Court cases from an analytical standpoint and formulate reasoned hypotheses on how the court will rule while considering its ideological makeup. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*

Rationale: College-bound students interested in majoring in a law-related field would benefit from taking this course. Higher order thinking and undergraduate literacy skills will be developed in a rigorous, high interest environment.

Research

#0194 Research in Social Science Honors

Grades 10-12 / 1 Semester High Weighted Course – 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: A/B average in all previous high school work or Social Studies teacher recommendation

Curiosity has driven humankind's search for meaning and knowledge for thousands of years. Channeling that curiosity into systematic methods of asking questions, making observations, and analyzing information has produced a diverse and abundant body of knowledge in the social sciences, natural sciences, history, the humanities, and beyond. This course immerses students in the rich tradition of scholarly research, providing them with unique and empowering opportunities to learn the process by pursuing topics and questions of their own choice. Students will engage directly in developing research questions, source and data collection, source and data analysis, and presentation of findings in a variety of media. The classroom experience will be collaborative, dynamic, and highly student-centered. A capstone project will capture the breadth of the research process and will showcase students' efforts, learning, and passion.

Rationale: Proficiency in research methodology is a critical component of college and career readiness, bringing together into one process a variety of academic skills that are often addressed in isolation. College-bound students interested in enrolling in AP classes and/or interested in pursuing degrees

in the social and natural sciences would benefit from this course. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*

INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL COURSES

These special education classes address academic content and skill areas at an appropriate level of complexity for students with an IEP.

#3105 World Studies

Grades 9-10 / Full Year Course -2.0 credits

Prerequisite: IEP recommendation

This course will reinforce textbook reading, maps and graph interpretation skills. The course content will focus upon physical and cultural geography, along with topics of history regarding various regions around the world. One major project per semester is required. *This course fulfills the World Studies graduation requirement.*

#3166 American Government

Grade 10 / 1 Semester - 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: IEP recommendation

This course is designed for students to develop an understanding of the American government legal systems. Students will study both the Illinois state and the federal systems of government. *This course fulfills the American Government graduation requirement.*

#3159 United States History

Grade 11 / Full Year Course - 2.0 credits

Prerequisite: IEP recommendation

This course presents an overview of the major themes, events and concepts in American history. Primary and secondary reading sources in addition to multimedia resources will be incorporated into the class. *This course fulfills the U.S. History graduation requirement.*

#3148 Understanding Human Behavior

Grade 12 / 1 Semester - 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: IEP recommendation

This course will provide students an opportunity to understand themselves and others by investigating such topics as learning, motivation, perception, personality and personality testing, emotion, stress and frustration, and psychological disorders. *This course fulfills the Social Studies Elective requirement for graduation.*