

# HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The programs in this department span the breadth of human experience past and present, reflecting the call of our age for cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, and humanistic approaches to individual self-awareness, personal development, and an understanding of the world. Global citizenship and increasing interdependence demand that students become familiar with both their own and other cultures, have knowledge of the past, develop critical thinking, appreciate philosophical and religious ideas, and have an understanding of political and economic institutions.

All students are required to take a one-term course in philosophy or religion and a year-long course in United States History; three- and four-year students are required to take a year-long course in World History. The contemporary global studies requirement can be fulfilled with a range of courses (see p. 10) including six courses in this department: Contemporary Issues (HI205), The Modern Middle East, Honors (HI459HO), Women's Studies in a Global Perspective, Honors (HI460HO), International Relations, Honors (PS460HO), International Economics, Honors (EC455HO), and Development Economics, Honors (EC575HO). Students are urged to fulfill these requirements as early in their careers as possible. In addition to these requirements, students are encouraged to pursue other departmental courses that interest them, potentially combining related courses to form a Capstone Program during the senior year. Students with a special interest in government and public service should consider applying for the John F. Kennedy '35 Program in Government and Public Service, a multidisciplinary Signature Program that includes public service experience and a tutorial component.

Students are placed in honors sections of courses according to criteria listed in the course descriptions below. The department head, in consultation with the Registrar and the Director of Studies as appropriate, determines the suitability of honors placement for each new student who requests it.

– Amy Foster, Department Head

## HISTORY

### THIRD AND FOURTH FORM HISTORY ELECTIVE

#### CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

All terms; 1 course credit

HI205

This term elective introduces third and fourth form students to major contemporary issues facing the U.S. and the world, as it helps students develop fundamental research, writing, and public speaking skills. The course normally focuses on three major issues per term, utilizing a range of materials and providing historical context and a variety of perspectives on each issue. Sample topics include: nuclear proliferation, the Israel-Palestine conflict, modern Cuba, the Syrian refugee crisis, and climate change. *This course fulfills the requirement in contemporary global studies.*

#### FOURTH FORM HISTORY

World History is a required course for three- and four-year students, usually taken in the student's fourth form year. Both HI210 and HI255HO use a chronological framework within which to examine important themes and narratives in the study of world history. Both courses use primary and secondary sources and emphasize critical reading and writing, with the assistance of technological tools. Entry into World History, Honors (HI255HO) is contingent upon completion of at least one term of a third form History, Philosophy, Religion, or Social Science course with a grade of A- or higher and the permission of the department.\* A recommendation for placement in honors is highly dependent on a student having demonstrated strong critical writing skills, the capacity for reading and interpreting challenging texts, and active engagement in class discussion. (\*Returning students who have not taken an HPRSS course in the third form year but who seek an honors placement must have the permission of the department head.)

*Note: Fourth form students who participate in a study abroad program are not required to make up the missed term of World History. The history they study while abroad replaces the missed term of that course.*

## **WORLD HISTORY**

Year; 3 course credits

HI210

This project-based world history course explores the time period from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is driven by historical questions, designed to provide students with the opportunity to understand and appreciate the modern world in a way that will inform their views on current global issues. In this course, students learn the work of the historian: evaluation of primary source material, use of historiography, the skill of historical thinking, the existence and analysis of multiple historical narratives, and use of evidence to complete effective research and craft arguments. Students apply these historical skills in various individual and collaborative group projects that stress independent learning and help promote writing, research, speaking, and critical thinking skills.

## **WORLD HISTORY, HONORS**

Year; 3 course credits

HI255HO

This course is a rigorous examination of world history beginning with the Classical Period and moving through the central themes and concepts of the post-Classical, Early Modern and Modern periods, into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Students explore peoples, states, and empires of the major cultures of Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and the Americas, focusing on their evolving expressions and means of interaction. Cognizance of historical periodization is stressed as are associated themes: the origins of salvation religions, the forces of empire, the eras of exploration, the rise of global markets, the connections between imperialism and colonization, and the development and impact of industrialization. Various individual and collaborative projects are undertaken to examine particular areas of history in greater depth, using primary and secondary sources and emphasizing critical reading, writing, research, and oral presentation skills.

## **FIFTH FORM HISTORY**

United States History is a required course, usually taken in the student's fifth form year. However, fourth form students who have demonstrated a particular interest and ability in the study of history may request permission from the Director of Studies and department head to take United States History. In some circumstances, students may want to take U.S. History in their sixth form year; those students should discuss this option with their adviser and form dean. Students who wish to take the honors course or American Studies should have demonstrated in previous history courses that they possess strong critical writing skills, the capacity for reading and interpreting challenging texts, and active engagement in class discussion.

*Note 1: Students who participate in a study abroad program during the fifth form academic year must fulfill the United States History requirement the following year by enrolling in: 1) the term of U.S.*

*History (HI310 or HI355HO) that was missed; or 2) if fall term was missed, enrolling in U.S. Government and Politics I, Honors (PS550HO); if winter term was missed, enrolling in The American West (HI456AD); if spring term was missed, enrolling in From Megaphone to iPhone (HI402AD), Constitutional Law, Honors (HI411HO), or American Diplomacy (HI413AD).*

*Note 2: Fifth form students may not take American Studies (HI375HO and EN375) and participate in a study abroad program during the fall or winter of their fifth form year.*

Year; 3 course credits

HI310

This course is a chronological survey attentive to the political, economic, cultural, social, and constitutional developments by which the United States achieved independence, became a nation, and grew into a world power. In this course, students learn how to: 1) read past documents and contemporary interpretations, 2) take notes on both reading and class discussion, 3) make reasoned interpretations about the causes and consequences of historic events, 4) research using both primary and secondary sources, and 5) communicate analytically and persuasively. While all teachers follow a core curriculum that covers the essential topics of American political, social, economic, intellectual, and diplomatic history, a variety of methods is employed in the many sections of the course.

## **UNITED STATES HISTORY, HONORS**

Year; 3 course credits

HI355HO

This course is a faster paced version of HI310, covering a broader range of topics and using more challenging, in-depth readings. Students who enroll in this course are expected to possess strong research and analytical writing skills, as well as the ability to manage demanding reading and writing assignments.

## **AMERICAN STUDIES (UNITED STATES HISTORY, HONORS)**

Year; 3 course credits

HI375HO (must be taken with EN375)

This interdepartmental course is an alternative to U.S. History, Honors and American Literature and Composition and is for fifth form students who wish to pursue a detailed study of United States history, literature, art, and culture. Students who choose this course are expected to possess strong research and analytical writing skills as well as the ability to manage demanding reading and writing assignments. This interdepartmental course fulfills the American literature and the United States history requirements. The course is taught in double periods and earns three course credits in both English and history.

## UPPER FORM ELECTIVES

The following courses are advanced both in topic and in the level of reading and writing required. Therefore, they are open to fifth and sixth formers who meet the stated prerequisite. Fourth formers interested in these courses must obtain permission from the department head before they will be enrolled in the desired course.

### **FROM MEGAPHONE TO IPHONE: AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

Winter term; 1 course credit

HI402AD

What were the major events and trends that helped shape American society throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century? How have Hollywood and television highlighted (and sometimes even helped create) social values? How have technological innovations affected life in America? Relying almost exclusively on 20<sup>th</sup> century primary sources, such as letters, film clips, TV clips, advertisements (both print and TV), music, and radio shows, this course looks at these issues, as well as changing concepts of race and gender, advertising as a major social force, the impact of immigration, and the role of popular music as it examines and chronicles American society from the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to 1999. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, HONORS**

Spring term; 1 course credit

HI411HO

This course explores the evolution of the United States Supreme Court and its influence on the American people. For the first third of the term, students read a history of the High Court and write several short papers on topics in constitutional history. In the latter portion of the course, the class resolves itself into a "Mock Court" program, in which students argue landmark cases decided by the real Court in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and later. When presenting cases as a lawyer, students research the legal background, prepare a one-page argumentative brief, and engage in oral argument before the rest of the class. The remaining students serve as the Court's justices who deliberate on each of the several dozen cases handled over the course of the term. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **AMERICAN DIPLOMACY**

Fall, Spring terms; 1 course credit

HI413AD

After an examination of the government's foreign policy-making apparatus and a discussion of the role of international law in the modern world, this course reviews American foreign policy from the Spanish American War to the present. Major topics include the Big Stick policy, the Open Door, World War I, the isolationism

vs. internationalism debate of the 1920s and 1930s, World War II, and the creation of the Cold War containment policy. The course concludes with an exercise in which students examine the complexities facing American policy makers in the post-Cold War world. Primary sources are used extensively and both traditional and revisionist interpretations of the American role are examined. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AFRICAN HISTORY, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit

HI416HO

This course introduces the complexities of postcolonial Africa. The core questions that guide the course are: Why are some state structures weaker in Africa than elsewhere? What accounts for Africa's slow economic growth? Why do some African countries suffer from high levels of political violence while others are spared? Using case studies of African countries from different regions such as Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the west, Ethiopia and Tanzania in the east, Algeria and Egypt in the north, and South Africa and Zimbabwe in the south, students encounter the great variation within Africa in the strength of its states, the levels of economic growth, and the amount of discord. The course is structured in three parts: an examination of the pre-colonial structures of the African states, a study of the European colonial system in Africa, and an exploration of the social, political, and cultural forces that now shape contemporary African societies. Throughout the course, students work to understand how Africans experienced European colonial rule. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

### **COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA**

Fall term; 1 course credit

HI422AD

This course introduces students to the history of colonial Latin America and historical trends shared by the modern nations today. It focuses on three central themes: Iberia before the age of exploration, the conquest period itself, and post-cultural encounter. Through these topics, students delve into major historical developments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and gain an understanding of Latin American culture, social movements, political trends, race relations, and even demographic changes taking place here in the United States. The course utilizes historical projects driven by historical questions, group work, presentations, and documentaries. Students draw from a diverse range of academic disciplines and methodologies in order to form a well-rounded understanding of the region and its inhabitants. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **THE UNITED STATES IN VIETNAM, 1961-1995**

Spring term; 1 course credit

HI423AD

The Vietnam War and its legacy remain compelling not only in the United States, but in nations impacted by this pivotal historical event. Using primary sources, fiction, historical film archives, Ken Burns' documentary on the Vietnam War, and distinguished visiting lecturers, this course examines the prosecution of the war and its residual impact from multiple perspectives: Cold Warriors versus the New Left in the U.S.; global anti-Imperialist movements; the experiences of veterans from combatant nations; and peoples still coming to terms with losses wrought by this conflict. On the U.S. front, attention is given to the Cold War's influence in the escalation to war, racial and class divisions produced by the war, the music of war protestors, wartime media coverage, and the emergence of the "credibility gap." The course concludes with an examination of post-war recovery in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the path to normalization of U.S.-Vietnam relations. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **MODERN JAPAN: FROM SAMURAI TO SONY**

Winter term; 1 course credit

HI432AD

Offered in alternate years; available in 2020-2021

This course explores Japan's transformation from feudal state to Asian military power from 1800 to 1945 and then its rise from bitter defeat in World War II to become an economic superpower. Students consider how traditional Japanese culture has shaped the nation's business and industrial successes and failures in the post-war era. Other focal points of the course include the changing status of women, race, and racism in the Pacific War, and Japan's relationship with the United States. While its primary focus is historical, the course explores many facets of Japanese life, including religious, artistic, and literary elements. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **BLACK STUDIES**

Spring term; 1 course credit

HI433AD

This course introduces students to the field of Black Studies, with a particular focus placed on the Black experience in the United States from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. It offers students a wide range of topics in Black Studies, such as slavery in the United States, the Americas, and the Caribbean; Pan-Africanism; and the Civil Rights, Black Power, and Black Arts Movements. This course also demonstrates convergences between Black-American history, politics, literature, culture, and current events. Additionally, this course affords rich possibilities to pursue research interests that can be developed over the course of the

term and in post-secondary coursework in African-American and African Diaspora Studies. Students are required to write short papers and lead assigned seminar discussions. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **THE RISE OF MODERN CHINA, HONORS**

Fall term; 1 course credit

HI436HO

Offered in alternate years; available in 2019-2020

This course examines the two distinct periods of China's post-World War II history: Mao Zedong's era of Communist Party control which featured populist socialism, and the period of post-1976 to the present which explores how China opened up to the global community and implemented a pragmatic market-based economy initiated by Mao's successor, Deng Xiaoping. Using literature, documentaries, and feature films, critical attention is given to such prominent events as the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the Tiananmen "crackdown," with the goal of understanding how China has emerged as a distinct and influential power on the world stage. Student research is also devoted to a range of current issues facing China, such as environmental challenges, perspectives on China's human rights record, and its membership in the World Trade Organization. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **THE HOLOCAUST**

Winter term; 1 course credit

HI445AD

This course explores the emergence, evolution, varieties, underlying causes, and means of confronting and coming to terms with genocide and other crimes against humanity in the modern world. Particular attention is paid to the roots of European anti-Semitism and the Nazi attempt to exterminate all of European Jewry in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. From this historical "case study," we examine definitions, causes, consequences, and the ways by which people explain their experiences of oppression and genocide by comparing the Holocaust to other historical examples, past and present. Case studies could include the mass murder of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire; the genocide in Cambodia perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge; and the genocide in Rwanda. The approach and the materials are interdisciplinary and each student conducts independent research. While a background in modern European history is helpful, it is not required. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **THE USE AND ABUSE OF POWER**

Fall, Winter terms; 1 course credit  
HI446AD

This project-based course explores the use and abuse of power in recent history and contemporary life. Focus is on an examination of the nature of power—what it is, how it is obtained, used, and abused. Important to this ongoing discussion are the distinctions and relationships between power and authority. The course examines power through several lenses: historical, psychological, sociological, and political. Power is explored as a key ingredient in public education, gender politics, race, the media, nonviolent movements, and cultural and economic elites, as well as challenges to those bases of power. Assignments also consider power dynamics in human relationships. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **THE AMERICAN WEST**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
HI456AD

The lure and promise of “the West” have been important forces in shaping American history and culture. Drawing on several primary and secondary sources, this course examines the development of the trans-Mississippi West from the 1840s to the present. We look at a number of aspects of the American West, including such topics as the Gold Rush, Native American Wars, cowboys and “cowtowns,” contributions from and clashes between various cultures in the West, changing gender roles, exploitation and/or conservation of natural resources, and the role of railroads. The course also examines the modern West by looking at such issues as immigration, tourism, and “green” energy. The course concludes by looking at how and why the images and myths of the West have become such a pervasive part of American culture in such places as art, film, literature, television, and advertising. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **ISLAMIC CIVILIZATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, HONORS**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
MD458HO

This course helps students understand and appreciate the beauty and complexity of the Islamic civilizations of the Middle East. Starting with the rise of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula and concluding with the fall of the Ottoman empire at the end of World War I, students read a college-level text, study primary sources, and explore visual materials, to discover the history of Islamic thought and socio-political institutions as well as Islam’s many forms of art, literature, and architecture. The course culminates in a student project on the art and architecture of an Islamic dynasty or city such as Mecca, Damascus, Baghdad, Istanbul, and Isfahan. On occasion, however, students have chosen to pursue topics as diverse as Palestinian hip hop,

calligraphy, Umayyad rock crystal, and Central Asian textiles. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

*Note: This course is required for students in the Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies Program.*

### **THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST, HONORS**

Fall, Winter terms; 1 course credit  
HI459HO

This course is an introduction to the modern Middle East and its relations with the West from World War I to the present. Students explore the causes of the current crescendo of Arab/Islamic hostility towards the West, the development of the Israeli/Palestinian stand-off, the oil issue, the Iranian Revolution, the spread of radical Islam, and the forces that triggered the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Readings, videos, presentations, research and expository exercises, discussions, and seminars give students a chance to understand the history of the region and its connection with these issues. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department. *This course fulfills the requirement in contemporary global studies.*

*Note: This course is required for students in the Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies Program.*

### **WOMEN’S STUDIES IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, HONORS**

Winter, Spring terms; 1 course credit  
HI460HO

From the West to the Far East, Africa to the Islamic world, and beyond, this course engages students in an examination of historical conditions, cultural norms, and social and economic institutions that define women’s status and identity. By first looking at the history of patriarchy and feminist movements, students gain an understanding of the historical forces that shape the experience of women today. With a focus on the diverse and intersectional nature of women’s experiences, we explore issues facing women throughout the world. The course examines how women’s experiences reflect larger social issues, the ways in which activism seeks to address the obstacles women face, and how feminist movements strive to empower women. Open to fifth and sixth formers. *This course fulfills the requirement in contemporary global studies.*

### **THE GREENING OF AMERICA: THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT, HONORS**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
MD521HO

The environmental movement in the United States has been motivated by a wide range of factors, including the natural beauty of the country, the destruction of some of that beauty, the work of naturalists, ethicists, theologians, historians, and authors, catastrophic events that have captured the public's attention, and activists schooled and fueled by the sweeping changes in the 1960s. This multidisciplinary course weaves together these perspectives as it traces the development of the environmental movement in the United States and the impact of key people and events on this movement and on the environment itself. The course draws from many disciplines as it examines historical, political, ethical, religious, economic, and cultural aspects of the environmental movement. This course includes an experiential component that involves contact with the natural world on our campus and potentially beyond. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **EUROPEAN HISTORY I, HONORS: 1300-1789**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
HI551HO

The course begins with Europe's emergence from the catastrophes of the late Middle Ages into the period of the New Monarchies and the brilliant culture of the Italian and North European Renaissance. Students explore the Protestant-Catholic conflicts and the social changes unleashed by Luther's and Calvin's Reformation. Further course topics include: the Europe-wide wars of the 17<sup>th</sup> century; the triumph of divine right and absolute monarchy; and the emergence of constitutionalism in Britain and Holland. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **EUROPEAN HISTORY II, HONORS: 1789-1914**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
HI552HO

Winter term begins with the French Revolutions and the era of Napoleon. Throughout the term students examine the aftermath of this era, which gave us the political systems that spawned the revolutions of 1848 and 1871; the Industrial Revolution; the first triumphs of liberalism and nationalism; the unification of Germany and Italy; romanticism and the social transformation wrought by industrial capitalism; and the New Imperialism of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **EUROPEAN HISTORY III, HONORS: 1914-2000**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
HI553HO

Spring term begins with the failure to resolve the issues of nationalism vs. internationalism, democracy vs. statism, and capitalism vs. socialism resulting in the two greatest wars in history, leaving Europe impotent and straddled by the new global powers; the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. Students follow these disasters and the recovery of Europe through the period of the Cold War. Other topics include: the Bolshevik Revolution, the Great Depression, Modernism, totalitarian regimes, decolonization, the formation of the European Union, and some of the myriad ways in which Europe's history is becoming inseparable from world history. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

## **PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION**

The following courses satisfy the diploma requirement in philosophy and religion.

### **WORLD RELIGIONS**

All terms; 1 course credit  
RL200

This course exposes students to the beliefs, practices, ethics, and histories of five major world religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Students study each of the religions in order to gain an understanding of its meaning to individual believers and its impact on human history and contemporary life. The course utilizes various types of print and visual resources and exposes students to foundational skills in research, writing, and public speaking. Open to third and fourth formers.

### **PEACE AND JUSTICE**

All terms; 1 course credit  
RL210

This course explores the view of various religious traditions and key religious leaders on the important themes of peace and justice. Drawing on some of the central components of religious thought – compassion, neighborly love, repairing the world – the course examines contemporary topics such as poverty, human rights, racial justice, gender equity, peace and non-violence, and environmental sustainability and justice. Utilizing a variety of religious perspectives, students learn basic doctrines from each of the religions to aid in understanding, assessing, and developing solutions for the issues studied. Open to third and fourth formers.

## **THE RELIGIONS OF ASIA**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
RL407AD

This course explores the basic philosophy and practices of some of the influential religions of Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Shinto, and Taoism. Students examine the historical development, ethics, and basic worldview of each tradition, enabling them to develop an understanding of the impact of each system both on individual lives and on society. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

## **SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
RL408AD

Humans have continually sought meaning in their lives and a connection with the divine, asking the questions: "Why am I here?" and "Where am I going?". This course examines the quest for spiritual meaning and understanding through the study of biography, memoir, scripture, and film. The course covers a wide variety of religious and spiritual traditions and provides a range of perspectives within those traditions. Students are exposed to the reflections of noted religious figures, as well as everyday seekers, and are encouraged to be tolerant of new perspectives and to reflect on their own spiritual questions. This course culminates in a final project. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

## **MORAL REASONING**

Fall, Winter terms; 1 course credit  
PL411AD

This introductory ethics course examines the process of moral reasoning. A range of classical and contemporary ethical theories serves as a basis for the discussion of personal and social issues. Topics such as capital punishment, stem cell research, and environmental ethics are presented in a way that helps students understand and appreciate various points of view, as well as formulate and express their own values. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

## **PHILOSOPHY, HONORS**

Fall, Spring terms; 1 course credit  
PL450HO

Philosophy is an attempt to ask and answer in an imaginative and disciplined way some of the important questions of life. This course investigates what it means to be human, the fundamental nature of God and reality, the sources and limits of our knowledge, and the concept of what is right and good in our lives. Content and process are given equal emphasis in this demanding course, and both historical ideas and personal reflection are stressed to help students examine these topics constructively. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

## **SOCIAL SCIENCES: ECONOMICS**

### **MACROECONOMICS**

#### **MACROECONOMICS, HONORS**

All terms; 1 course credit  
EC400 (fall only); EC450HO

These courses examine basic economic concepts and macroeconomic theory and serve as the department's introduction to the field of economics. Students begin by studying the fundamental concepts of scarcity, opportunity cost, production possibilities curves, and supply and demand. They then focus on the U.S. national economy and its links to the global economy using a variety of measures of economic performance and by examining economic fluctuations and economic growth. After learning the Aggregate Demand and Supply model, students analyze the impacts of fiscal and monetary policies, as well as other macroeconomic policies on the nation's economy. EC450HO covers these concepts in much more depth; the workload is more demanding, and the pace of instruction is faster. Open to fifth and sixth formers each term, and to fourth formers in the winter and spring with the permission of the department.

#### **MICROECONOMICS, HONORS**

Winter, Spring term; 1 course credit  
EC550HO

Students study consumer decision-making, the theory of the firm, and different types of markets for products and factors of production. They also examine government policy in different markets. As a case study, students analyze a company and participate in a term-long simulation in which they run their own firm in a competitive market. Students communicate with suppliers and customers via email, keep their financial records on a computer spreadsheet, and at the end of the term prepare an annual report for their firm. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

Prerequisite: Macroeconomics.

#### **ADVANCED TOPICS IN ECONOMICS, HONORS**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
EC560HO

Students in this course examine a variety of current events as the context for reviewing the range of topics studied in the Macroeconomics and Microeconomics courses. In addition, they further their study of economics by exploring recent developments in economic theory and policies beyond the concepts and models studied in the two introductory courses. Students focus on a particular topic or issue in depth for their final research project.

Prerequisite: Macroeconomics and Microeconomics.

**BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS, HONORS**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
EC480HO

Economic theory has largely been developed based on the assumption that people make rational decisions. Psychological theory, however, recognizes that in many circumstances people do not make rational decisions. Behavioral Economics attempts to integrate the insights of psychology into the study of economics. This course examines this integration of psychology into economics by studying several prominent examples of different types of decisions for which economists have found that people's choices do not reflect rational decision-making: heuristics, loss aversion, framing, and prospect theory. After examining these examples, students design experiments in which they test the different theories of decision-making and analyze the results of these experiments in light of the theories. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

*Note: Background in economics and/or psychology is helpful but not required.*

Spring term; 1 course credit  
EC570AD

In this course students learn about starting and managing a small business. In the classroom, they study the basics of business management through readings, discussion, and homework exercises. The course provides opportunities for students to see these principles applied in the real world. By the end of the term, students develop their own ideas for a business and write a business plan. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

Prerequisite: Macroeconomics. (EC550HO is helpful, but not required.)

**INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, HONORS**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
EC455HO

Almost no country in the world exists in isolation; all are linked by trade, migration, and investment flows. Students in this course study the reasons for trade, models of trade relationships, and government policies that promote or restrict trade. The course examines how the use of different currencies impacts trade, the factors that influence the exchange rate between currencies, and the different types of exchange rate regimes that countries have used. Students also study economic systems and the role of economic institutions. To analyze the effects of these theories and policies and their international ramifications, students research economic conditions and policies in a particular country as a case study. Open to fifth and sixth formers. *This course fulfills the contemporary global studies requirement.*

Prerequisite: Macroeconomics.

**DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
EC575HO

Nearly 25 percent of the world's population, an estimated 1.4 billion people, live in developing countries on less than \$1.25 USD a day. What can be done to help these countries? Do richer countries have an obligation to help developing countries? This course examines the variety of internal (e.g., geography, population, institutions) and external (e.g., foreign aid, trade, capital flows) factors that influence the economic development of countries. Students are introduced to the international organizations created to help countries with their economic development. In addition, students learn the variety of theories that have been suggested to explain variations in development among countries and the policies that have been proposed to support their development. As a case study, students analyze the experience of a developing country and recommend appropriate policies to improve its development. This course is organized in a seminar format, with the students responsible for presenting the theories and their country examples to the class. Open to fifth and sixth formers. *This course fulfills the requirement in contemporary global studies.*

Prerequisite: Macroeconomics.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS, HONORS**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
EC585HO

Economic theory provides powerful tools to analyze and address environmental issues. This course builds upon the concepts introduced in Macroeconomics and exposes students to microeconomic models and concepts to study environmental improvement. Starting with a quick recap of supply and demand, the course closely examines market efficiency, cost-benefit analysis, market failures (externalities, non-exclusion, free-riders, and asymmetric information), and environmental policies (decentralized, command and control, and incentive-based solutions) before moving on to topics such as renewable vs. non-renewable resource management, sustainability and economic growth, and profits vs. environmental protection. Cases of both ill-considered policies that have accelerated environmental degradation, and well-designed policies that have resulted in more sustainable resource use are considered. Throughout the term students become experts in a particular aspect of environmental economics through a research project that culminates with a presentation. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

Prerequisite: Macroeconomics

*Note: This course is not open to students who have taken Environmental Economics during their time at the Kohler Environmental Center nor should students who plan to study at the KEC take this course.*

### **MONETARY THEORY, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
EC650HO

This course examines the Federal Reserve and how it sets monetary policy, as well as the theory that underlies it. Students analyze current economic data, and political and international issues that impact the economy and monetary policy. Building on the theory learned in Macroeconomics, students use resources available from the Federal Reserve System, the federal government, statistical sources, the media, and academic sites. Practice in public speaking is a significant part of this course.

Prerequisite: Macroeconomics, Honors; Microeconomics, Honors; and the permission of the department. Enrollment is very limited.

### **SOCIAL SCIENCES: POLITICAL SCIENCE**

#### **POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
PS430HO

This course presents a comparative analysis of four major political ideologies: democracy, communism, fascism, and Islamism. Students examine theory and structure, as well as the historical development and contemporary forms of each ideology. Primary sources are used extensively as the students are asked to explore the ideas of such major political thinkers as Locke, Rousseau, Jefferson, Mill, Marx, Lenin, Sorel, and Nietzsche. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

#### **DEMOCRACY, MEDIA, AND POLITICS**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
PS433AD

All politics are now mediated. Print media, radio, television, the Internet, and social media infuse our culture and transform the presentation of issues, candidates, and the daily practice of politics. To understand politics, one must understand the role of media in politics. This course is designed to promote student-directed investigations and conclusions to the questions posed at the start of the course that guide the term's work. For example, in spring 2018 students worked on the staff of the fictitious Spin Media Corporation, producing an actual news magazine for broadcast that answered the question of whether news organizations can produce unbiased reporting. In spring 2017 the course questions were: Why did Donald Trump win the 2016 Presidential election? How did the media influence the outcome, if at all? Each year, the central focus of the course reflects the current relationship between politics and the media. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HONORS**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
PS460HO

This course introduces students to the theories and debates within the discipline of international relations, providing them tools to examine global politics through a variety of lenses. The first third of the term considers the classical underpinnings of international relations and the historical evolution of state sovereignty. In the latter part of the term, through theoretical readings as well as historical and contemporary case studies, students explore the fundamental questions and applications of contemporary international relations: What is "right" or "just" in international politics? What is the cause of conflict between and among states? Do democratic states promote peace more readily than states with other forms of government? What role do international organizations play in maintaining a stable world order? Students read both Western and non-Western political theorists, and through both collaborative and independent work they study watershed events in international relations over the past century. Open to fifth and sixth formers. *This course fulfills the requirement in contemporary global studies.*

#### **U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS I, HONORS**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
PS550HO

Grounded in a close reading of the founding documents and shaped by the political events of the current day, students consider the organization, operation and interaction of the most important American political institutions, notably the three branches of the federal government. In addition to a field trip to Hartford, the state capital, and a set of mock Supreme Court cases, a key component of the course is a student-directed Model Congress, with students drafting legislation and shepherding it through committee and floor sessions, all governed by parliamentary procedure. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

## **U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS II, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
PS555HO

This course continues the work of PS550HO and explores the form and function of American government and politics in greater depth through contemporary examples and seminar discussions. Students examine the formation, operation, and effect of political culture, opinion, and participation, while further pursuing the role of the media, interest groups, and the bureaucracy in the creation and execution of policy. In addition to reading current news and nonfiction accounts in a structured format, the class takes a three-day trip to Washington, D.C. that includes meetings with officials and staffers in all three branches of the federal government, as well as figures from political parties, interest groups, and the media. Open to fifth and sixth formers, and fourth formers with the permission of the department.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of PS550HO or the permission of the department.

## **JFK SEMINAR, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
PS600HO

Students in the JFK Signature Program meet weekly in groups of 3-4 with a teacher in a tutorial setting, which entails discussion based on papers prepared for class from a list of "anchor questions" that guide the work of the term. The tutorial requires significant independent research, reading, and writing on a rotating basis. Students are expected to offer thoughtful critiques of their peers in the weeks they are not presenting their own papers. In the closing weeks of the term, the focus shifts to preparation for the public presentation in the spring, which may be based, at least in part, on work done in the tutorial. Open to students who are in the John F. Kennedy '35 Program in Government and Public Service.

## **SOCIAL SCIENCES: PSYCHOLOGY**

### **INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY**

All terms; 1 course credit  
PY400

This course provides an overview of the major components that comprise the scientific study of psychology. Students examine a variety of theoretical perspectives (biological, cognitive, behavioral, and psychoanalytic) as they work to develop an understanding of human thought and behavior. Among topics studied are nature vs. nurture/nature via nurture, research methodology, brain structure and function, types of learning, emotions and motivation, cognition, identity development, and social behavior. In the process, students not only master the basics of current psychological theory and vocabulary, but also

gain a better understanding of themselves and others. Open to fourth, fifth, and sixth formers.

### **SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, HONORS**

Fall term; 1 course credit  
PY435HO

Social Psychology is a scientific field that seeks to understand the nature and causes of how individuals think about, influence, and relate to one another in social situations. This course examines how we view ourselves and others, the social forces that influence us, and how we relate to one another, by exploring social concepts such as attitudes, roles, attributions, types of group influence, persuasion, cult indoctrination, prejudice, aggression, and altruism. Students apply this information to examine the development of interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology.

### **ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
PY440HO

In this course, students delve into the study of major psychological disorders, becoming familiar with the multiple causes of these disorders as well as how they are viewed from different theoretical perspectives. Use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Psychiatric Disorders facilitates an understanding of how disorders are diagnosed, as well as provides a means to discuss intervention and prevention. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology

Spring term; 1 course credit  
PY470HO

In this course, students examine the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of children from infancy through age 12 from a variety of psychological perspectives. In addition to classroom instruction, students work with preschoolers at the on-campus YMCA Learning Community one class block per week as part of the course requirement. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology.

### **ADVANCED TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

The following courses (PY552HO and PY553HO) are intended to work together as a follow-up to the introductory course to provide a comprehensive survey of all major components of the discipline of psychology, including research methods. These courses may be taken as a two-term sequence or individually as term electives. They are not required to be taken in sequential order.

**ADVANCED TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY I, HONORS**

Fall, Winter terms; 1 course credit  
PY552HO

This course utilizes a range of approaches to explore how the mind works, which is the goal of cognitive psychology. Fields including neuroscience, experimental psychology, evolution, philosophy, and linguistics inform the study of mental processes such as sensation and perception, consciousness, memory, language, intelligence, morality, and decision-making. Students are introduced to psychological research methods and develop data analysis skills through class activities. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology.

**ADVANCED TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY II, HONORS**

Winter, Spring terms; 1 course credit  
PY553HO

This course examines the related topics of lifespan development, personality, and individual and social learning. Students also explore abnormal psychology and are exposed to subfields and careers in psychology. This course provides students the opportunity to design and implement an independent research project, allowing them to put into practice what they learn about psychological research methodology and data analysis. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology.

**COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE, HONORS**

Winter, Spring terms; 1 course credit  
MD330HO

One of the fastest growing research areas in science is neuroscience. Cognitive and behavioral studies have attracted considerable popular and scientific attention in recent years and new techniques have opened novel avenues for exploration. This course introduces the cellular and molecular mechanisms of neuronal function and examines how cognitive processes can be explained by the structure and function of the brain. Beyond foundational knowledge and empirical methodology in neuroscience, this class also explores data from current studies in neurobiology and cognitive sciences. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

Prerequisite: Anatomy and Physiology or Introduction to Psychology.

**BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS, HONORS**

Spring term; 1 course credit  
EC480HO

Economic theory has largely been developed based on the assumption that people make rational decisions. Psychological theory, however, recognizes that in many circumstances people do not make rational decisions. Behavioral Economics attempts to integrate the insights of psychology into the study of economics. This course examines this integration of psychology into economics by studying several prominent examples of different types of decisions for which economists have found that people's choices do not reflect rational decision-making: heuristics, loss aversion, framing, and prospect theory. After examining these examples, students design experiments in which they test the different theories of decision-making and analyze the results of these experiments in light of the theories. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

*Note: Background in economics and/or psychology is helpful but not required.*

**SOCIAL SCIENCES: SOCIOLOGY****INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY, HONORS**

Winter term; 1 course credit  
SO450HO

This course introduces students to the field of sociology, the scientific study of society, using team-based and service-learning approaches. The course explores the interaction of the individual and society, the recognition and explanation of social patterns, the causes and effects of social inequality, and social change. Students work in teams, in class and in local community organizations, to apply the theories and methodologies they learn, and use their field experience to develop a culminating term project. Major topics in the course include: social stratification and social inequality; deviance; gender and sexuality; race and ethnicity; and social institutions. Open to fifth and sixth formers.

**DIRECTED STUDY IN HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

The department offers Directed Study to students with particular interests in areas not already covered in our course offerings or to students who have a mastery of a topic that goes beyond our offerings. Directed Studies in the recent past have included: The History of Economic Thought, Gay and Lesbian History in America, Existentialist Philosophy, and Environmental Law and Policy.