



COURSE OFFERINGS: HISTORY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dept. Chair: Sarah McDowell - smcdowell@sch.org

In today's dynamic global environment, a strong knowledge of history and the ability to think critically is an essential part of a 21st century education. SCH students study history in inquiry-driven classrooms that promote experiential learning and develop historical empathy. Understanding the perspective of historical figures and their diverse experiences allows students to reflect upon their own lives and to understand more fully the world and cultures they live in and will help shape. In 9th and 10th grades, students spend two years studying world history, beginning with the Neolithic Agricultural Revolution and ending in today's complex and rapidly changing world. Eleventh graders study American history from colonization onward. In 11th and 12th grades, students may choose from a diverse array of elective courses. Placement in Honors or AP sections is determined by the department.

REQUIRED COURSES

GRADE 9 FOUNDATIONS OF THE MODERN WORLD

Required; full-year course; 1 credit

Prerequisite: Departmental approval for Honors

This course examines the interactions among major societies that helped shape the modern world. The course begins in the Neolithic Revolution and continues to the Age of Exploration. Using a global perspective, students will explore the issues arising from interactions between humans and the environment, the development of social structures, the interaction of cultures, the creation and expansion of economic systems, and empire building. Students will analyze and interpret a variety of primary and secondary sources, including aural, visual, and written material. Research skills, creative analysis, and persuasive writing will be core components of the course.

GRADE 10 MODERN WORLD HISTORY

Required; full-year course; 1 credit

Prerequisite: Departmental approval for Honors

This course examines the interactions and connections among major societies of the world from the 1400s to the present day. Students will explore new human and environmental connections, increasingly complex economic systems, innovative ideas arising from technological innovation, the rise of the nation-state, worldwide warfare, and the development of international systems. Students will interpret and analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources, including aural, visual, interviews, and written material. Research skills, creative analysis, and persuasive writing will be core components of the course.

GRADE 11 U.S. HISTORY

Full-year course; 1 credit

Prerequisite: Departmental approval for Honors

The course covers the history of the United States from colonial times to the present, focusing on political, economic, and social issues. Students will explore how the United States developed over time into a world power as well as contemporary foreign policy issues. The course will examine the turning points in American history, including the American Revolution, the origins of our Constitution, reform movements, Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, and issues in the United States today. Students will

analyze and interpret a variety of media, including aural, visual, and written primary and secondary sources. Research skills, creative analysis, and persuasive writing will be core components of the course.

GRADE 11 AP U.S. HISTORY

Full-year course; 1 credit

Prerequisite: Departmental approval

AP U.S. History will cover content and chronology similar to that covered in 11th grade History. Due to the breadth of material and the depth of understanding that students will be expected to obtain in AP U.S. History, there will be a significant summer assignment and regular extensive reading assignments during the school year. Nightly reading may be as much as 10 pages or more. Students will use primary and secondary readings in addition to their text. Students will engage in regular class discussions, research at a number of levels, and regular assessments, primarily based on AP-type questions. Students will also spend time writing in a variety of styles, including AP Free Response, responding to document-based questions, expository essays, and research-based essays.

ELECTIVES

GLOBAL ECONOMICS: AN INTRODUCTION

Grades 11, 12; elective; fall semester; ½ credit

This macroeconomics course will use both historical and real-world events and scenarios to explore the driving forces of global economics and will provide an overview of the core concepts of macroeconomics. Students will complete projects, activities, and simulations to develop and strengthen their understanding of economic theory and examine how economic forces will affect their decisions as young entrepreneurs. While the core principles of the course will be established by the instructor, students will have a choice in determining the specific content covered based on interest, relevance, and current global economic events. Students will conduct an in-depth research project.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: MANAGING ANARCHY IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Grades 11, 12; elective; fall semester; ½ credit

The world is an anarchic system; no one country or organization is in control. How can nations achieve peace and security in a globalized anarchic world? Thanks to the information technology revolution and the growth of international governance and economics, the world has become closely tied together in ways we never imagined were possible. This course serves as an introduction to the theoretical tools necessary to analyze actions of countries and the nature of the international system. Students explore how nations interact through IR theories and case studies, with an emphasis on history and political science. This interactive course provides students with the opportunity to apply their understanding of key concepts to historic, current and fictional events through simulations and research-based projects. In addition to reading Daniel Drezner's *Theories of International Politics & Zombies*, all students engage in the Statecraft simulation and conduct an in-depth research project.

HONORS GLOBAL SLAVERY

Grades 11, 12; fall semester; ½ credit

Prerequisite: Departmental approval

This course will study slavery as a social and economic system over time, beginning with the slave societies of ancient Greece and Rome, through the rise of African slavery and the Atlantic slave trade under the Spanish and Portuguese empires, through the growth and expansion of slavery in the U.S. South. The course will conclude by focusing on the global elimination of slavery in the second half of the nineteenth century and its tragic reemergence in recent decades, both in the United States and the world. The class will use David Brion Davis' *Inhuman Bondage* as a textbook, and pair it with a selection of primary sources and academic articles. In addition to regular assessments, students will conduct an in-depth research project.

POP CULTURE IN AMERICA

Grades 11, 12; elective; fall semester; ½ credit

In this course students will take a critical approach to examining the evolution of American popular culture in various forms, including television, film, advertising, and theater. Students will begin the semester by exploring definitions of pop culture and high culture before embarking on a study of how popular culture has developed and changed in the century between the 1880s and the 1980s. Special emphasis will be put on how pop culture has both shaped and reflected ideas of race, gender, and sexuality. Students will conduct an in-depth research project.

WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE AND BEYOND

Grades 11, 12; elective; fall semester; ½ credit

Unlike broader survey courses, this course is intended to allow students to learn about one topic in considerable depth by spending the entire semester on a relatively short period of time and focusing on the theaters of WWII. Students will explore the origins of WWII in Europe and Asia, military strategies developed during the war, how the war affected those on the homefront, and the long-term consequences of the war. Sources include primary and secondary text sources as well as non-traditional sources, such as film, poetry, and music. Students will have the opportunity to conduct an in-depth research project.

RACE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

Grades 11, 12; elective; spring semester; ½ credit

This course is designed to explore the role of race, gender, and sexuality in American history. The class will examine definitions of these ideas in American society in order to understand how Americans have used race, gender, and sexuality to understand the world around them, create power relationships, and impose social order. Students will conduct an in-depth research project about an issue concerning race, gender, or sexuality to analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources, including aural, visual, and written material.

THE COLD WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH - THE ROAD TO 9/11 AND BEYOND

Grades 11, 12; elective; spring semester; ½ credit

After World War II many nation states experienced major changes and shifts in both their internal developments and in their relations with the rest of the world, resulting in the tensions of the Cold War. When the Cold War ended, these seemingly immovable relationships changed dramatically, leading to new tensions and emerging global issues. This course will examine changes both during and after the Cold War, identify their causes, and scrutinize their impact on world events. Attention will be paid to the international issues that ended in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The course will have a non-traditional structure and students will conduct a substantial and in-depth research project.

GLOBAL INEQUALITY: ECONOMIC THOUGHT AND THE MODERN WORLD

Grades 11, 12; elective, spring semester, ½ credit

This world history elective is an introduction to economic history. Students will examine events that have inspired major changes in economic policy and decision making and explore both the impact of those changes as well as the economic theories that emerge. Beginning with the Industrial Revolution, the course will move forward to examine topics such as trade, globalization, and global wealth inequality. Students will have the opportunity to explore topics of their interest and will conduct an in-depth research project.

NEWS OF THE WORLD, NEWS CLOSE TO HOME

Grades 11, 12; elective; spring semester; ½ credit

The world in the early 21st century is globally connected, highly complex, and endlessly fascinating. This course will start with an introduction to the actors on the world stage, including the United Nations, NGOs, and the idea of state sovereignty. The rest of the course will be built around current world events, including events in America, with the class focus often chosen jointly by the teacher and students. Students will read multiple news sources for current events information as well as media bias, do deep research dives to collect and analyze background information, read analyses from experts in various fields, and research all the global actors. In addition, students will study the results of the 2020 US presidential election and how the results are likely to impact life in America. Simulations, self-directed projects, and research will be the backbone of this course. Students will conduct an in-depth research project.

HONORS HIDDEN PHILADELPHIA

Grade 11 AND 12 ; elective; spring semester; ½ credit

This course will study the history of the Philadelphia area from the time of the Lenni Lenape to the city's recent deindustrialization and gentrification. It will interrogate questions concerning to what extent the ideals enshrined and produced in the city, such as William Penn's vision and the signing of the Declaration of Independence, have matched the lived reality of everyday Philadelphians. The course will pay particular attention to public history, as students will visit and interrogate various sites throughout the region (at

times during class, at times on their own time). Students will conclude the class with a culminating project in which they will research a topic in Philadelphia history that interests them, and present it in a medium of their choosing (paper, video, podcast, etc.).

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Grade 12; elective; full-year course; 1 credit

Prerequisite: Departmental approval

This yearlong class will provide a conceptual framework and an understanding of the United States government and politics that will enable the student to think critically about the political processes at work in American society. This is a political science course that studies the interconnectedness of the different parts of the American political system and the behaviors and attitudes that shape and are a byproduct of this system. Though this course is designed to help prepare students for the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics exam, its ultimate goal is to provide students with knowledge and skills to understand and actively participate in American politics and society. This course will focus on cultivating the skills of research, analysis, argumentation, and written and verbal communication. All students will engage in a civic action project of their choice. Students will differentiate between political and constitutional issues, as well as engage in nonpartisan and multi-partisan examination of content. Topics to be explored include: the Constitution & foundations of American representative democracy, political ideologies and beliefs, the political roles played by public opinion, the media, private interest groups, corporations, political parties, and social movements. Special attention will be paid to the 2020 elections and the results.

AP ART HISTORY

Grade 12; elective; full-year course; 1 credit

Prerequisite: Departmental approval

The Advanced Placement Art History course teaches students about how people have responded to and communicated their experiences through art, as well as the historic and cultural contexts in which it was created. Students will be welcomed into the global art world as active participants, engaging with its forms and content as they research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, and respond to and interpret art. By examining a core set of 200 works of art and architecture from diverse cultures and the relationships among these works, students develop an understanding of global artistic traditions. In addition to the tools of visual analysis, art history emphasizes understanding how and why works of art function in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art. The AP Art History course engages students at the same level as an introductory college art history survey. The course is rigorous and requires dedication to learning and an interest in history and the artistic process. Additionally, competency in a variety of skills, including reading critically, in-class writing, research, analysis, interpretation, and visual literacy, will be a major focus of the course. There will be a field trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.