

***History Department Goals:***

- ✓ To develop in each student a sense of joy for the subject and for learning through readings, debate and discussion, role playing, and experiential activities that spark the imagination
- ✓ To impart our students with the critical skills that they will apply throughout their education and beyond: effective reading and research, note-taking, historical analysis, writing, creative thinking, and oral presentation – in groups as well as independently.
- ✓ To give our students a powerful foundation for understanding the world and how their lives are part of a larger community that shares this fragile planet.

**Upper School Course Sequence:**

**The Historian's Craft** – Introduction to the concepts and methods of historical analysis and research. Survey of premodern global history, including units on Middle East, India, China, Africa, Europe  
Grade level: 9 (required)

**US/European History I: 1492-1870** – Survey of European and US history from the Renaissance up through the Civil War in the US and national unification movements in Europe  
Grade level: 10 (required; includes an Honors option)

**US/European History II: 1871 to the Present** – Continuation of US/European History I  
Grade level: 11 (required; includes an Honors option)

**Advanced Topics in Art History: Global Art History in Washington, D.C.** – Global survey of art historical traditions and contexts from prehistory to the present, based on collections of Washington D.C. museums.

Grade level: 11, 12 (elective; prerequisite: Departmental Permission)

**Advanced Topics in Psychology – Introduction to the scientific study of behavior**

Grade level: 12 (elective; prerequisite: Departmental Permission)

**Advanced Topics in U.S. Government – Introduction to US government, integrated with a study of selected global and local issues**

Grade level: 12 (elective; prerequisite: Departmental Permission)

**Advanced Principles of Economics**

Grade level: 11, 12 (elective; prerequisite: Departmental Permission and pre-calculus or higher)

**Comparative World Religions** – Introduction to academic study of world religions

Grade Level: 11, 12 (elective)

## **History FAQs**

### **Why don't you teach American and European histories separately?**

The histories of Europe and America cannot be understood in isolation. Both societies were shaped by mutual interaction and outside global forces. To understand our contemporary globalized world, students must learn these histories in their historical and cultural contexts.

### **Why do you offer an Honors section in grade 10?**

We believe that it allows us to better meet the needs of individual students. Since students develop intellectually at different rates and differ in their ability to handle increasingly complex reading assignments, we feel it is in the best interests of all our students to provide more choice in selecting the pacing and depth that best serve their needs.

### **How do I know if Honors is a good choice for my daughter?**

Start by having her ask her teacher. If she likes studying history, reads well, and has a good record of success in the history courses she has taken, she probably should at least consider an advanced course.

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