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World Regional Studies

World Regional Studies is a required course designed to explore the political, economic, physical and cultural geography of Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, South America and Australia; and provide an introductory overview of the historical development and events that shaped each region. Students in this course will investigate the cultural contributions of each region and the rapidly changing landscape of these regions. First semester will deal with the developed areas of the world and second semester will deal with the developing areas of the world.

Units of Study:

- Western and Eastern Europe
- Northern Eurasia (Russia and the former Soviet Republics)
- Japan and Korea
- Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, the Pacific Islands
- India and South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- China
- Middle East and North Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Latin America

Students will study not just the physical and human geography of these countries, but teachers will also tie in social, economic, historical, and current affairs information.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS COURSE:

1. Current event assignments are frequent
2. There are written assignments, but class discussions will take place regularly to encourage critical thinking.
3. There will be a project assigned each semester. This project will focus on an area of the world that the class is studying and will require library and computer research. Examples of past projects are "Bike Tours" of countries where the students keep a journal of their travels, and group or individual reports on countries where the students bring in an ethnic food they have prepared or some other visual.
4. A map study accompanies each unit
5. Completion of all assignments on time and regular attendance are vital to a student's success.
6. Final exams are administered at the end of each semester.

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WORLD GEOGRAPHY HONORS

World Geography Honors at Shawnee Mission South for the upcoming school year is a class for freshmen who are willing and eager to go beyond learning basic information about the world. This class takes a more in-depth approach to the key geographical concepts and seeks to understand the world in the context of history, culture, physical surroundings and the great decisions that have brought us to present day. It is for students who are willing to accept the challenge of using a textbook well above grade level reading material and doing homework that depends on a variety of sources.

This is a class that depends on the 3 C's ... challenge, completion and curiosity.

To understand more about whether or not this class is for you consider the following:

Do I like to understand and know more than just basic information?

Do I like the challenge of critical thinking and discussion?

Do I like to take personal responsibility for my homework and take pride in doing it well?

Do I want to make the commitment to do my homework on time in order to get credit?

Do I want the challenge of studying the world from a more current event basis?

Do I want to complete 400 pages of outside reading each semester?

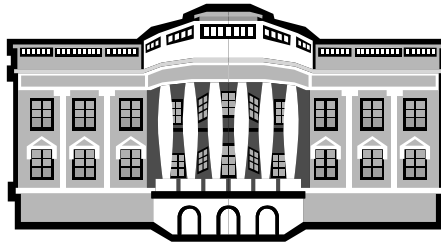
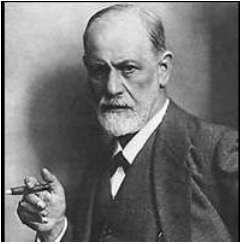
Do I want to be responsible for assignments that come from a textbook that has a higher than grade level reading skill?

Do I want to listen? Am I willing to offer an observation?

Am I willing to be open and learn not only from a textbook but from others?

Answering yes to these questions means that you are most likely a candidate for World Geography Honors. But there is one more question you must ask yourself. Am I taking this class **just** for the extra grade point? If you can't answer no to that question then this isn't the class for you.

Your Four Years of Social Studies at SM South



Freshman Year: World Regional Studies (WRS) or Honors World Regional Studies (WRS-H)

Sophomore Year (6 out of 10 SMS Sophomores enroll in either World History or European History AP)

Modern World History: Renaissance to the Present – This is a yearlong survey course based on a study of the economic, social, cultural and political contributions culminating in modern Western Civilization derived from earliest Egypt and Mesopotamia to the present. Asia, Africa and the Western Hemisphere are studied as they relate to Western Civilization. The goal of the course is to create an understanding and appreciation of the origins of present Western Civilization. **The course is recommended for college preparatory programs; however, it is open to all students**

Psychology I – This semester elective is an introduction to Psychology, the theory, history, and terminology important to a basic understanding of behavior is emphasized. Content emphases are: Maturation and Development, Principles of Learning, Motivation and Acquisition of Motives, Emotions and Emotional Development, Behavior Disorders, and Therapy. The students are given a “real world” look at the subject matter. The course is recommended for college preparatory programs; however, it is open to all students.

International Relations – This semester elective allows students to study current world events and how they relate to the United States. The class will learn about United States foreign policy, its philosophy, vocabulary, and practice in both the historical and contemporary setting. Primary emphasis is given to developments in the 20th century and what is happening at present in the world.

Economics - How do the choices you make impact your own wealth as well as the finances of larger society? Economics explains how these economies work. This semester course is designed to give students a better insight into our current market economy. Using real life experiences, hands-on activities and simulations students will better understand their own interactions within the economy with regard to consumption, wages, production, and the global market. This course is an introductory study of basic economics with emphasis on both microeconomics, including money, banking, taxes, and federal spending. Our economic system is compared with other economic systems of the world. This class is vital for all students to be educated participants in the global market. Students planning on attending college in the future should consider this course a necessity. Learn how to make good choices in your own life while learning how the economic world operates and impacts your daily life. Semester classes in **Macro and Micro Economics** are also available.

Foundations of Law – This semester elective is a combination of two nine-week concentrations on the subject of Law. Courtroom procedures, civil law and criminal law are examined. The subject is such that it can be applied to the real world now and in the future.

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Junior Year

US History – This required yearlong course is designed as a chronological survey of the rise of the American nations. Extending from the Colonial Period to the present, consideration is given to major trends and patterns in political, economic, social and cultural history of each year. The focus is on twentieth century history.

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Foundations of Law – This semester elective is a combination of two nine-week concentrations on the subject of Law. Courtroom procedures, civil law and criminal law are examined. The subject is such that it can be applied to the real world now and in the future.

Sociology I – The students gain an insight into the make-up and function of human groups in society. Study is made of culture as the product of group experience, the interaction between the individual and the group, the organization of society and social problems. Specific topics include: social institutions, population, social class, collective behavior, the aged, crime, prejudice, the inner-city poverty, the dropout rate and the generation gap. The course is recommended for college preparatory programs; however, it is open to all students.

International Relations – This semester elective allows students to study current world events and how they relate to the United States. The class will learn about United States foreign policy, its philosophy, vocabulary, and practice in both the historical and contemporary setting. Primary emphasis is given to developments in the 20th century and what is happening at present in the world.

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Advanced Placement

If you desire the opportunity to earn an extra grade point and possibly college credit, then the following courses are available. These year long courses offer an in-depth look at the subject being taught.

Macro and Micro Economics AP – sophomore, Junior, or Senior Year

European History AP – sophomore, Junior, or Senior Year.

Government AP– Senior Year

Psychology AP - Junior or Senior Year

US History AP- Junior Year

Senior Year

American Government – The required semester course in American Government is based on the dual concerns of citizen responsibility and individual participation in the affairs of government at the local, state, and national levels. Preparation in the first quarter is based on a study of the country's political and philosophical heritage and the resultant federal system as seen in the principles and structure of the Constitution. Preparation in the second quarter is based on a study of individual political action in voting, public interactions, and group involvement. A comparative study of other political systems is used to develop understanding of both concerns.

Foundations of Law – This semester elective is a combination of two nine-week concentrations on the subject of Law. Courtroom procedures, civil law and criminal law are examined. The subject is such that it can be applied to the real world now and in the future.

Psychology I / Psychology AP – This semester elective is an introduction to Psychology, the theory, history, and terminology important to a basic understanding of behavior is emphasized. Content emphases are: Maturation and Development, Principles of Learning, Motivation and Acquisition of Motives, Emotions and Emotional Development, Behavior Disorders, and Therapy. The students are given a "real world" look at the subject matter. The course is recommended for college preparatory programs; however, it is open to all students.

Sociology I / Sociology II – The students gain an insight into the make-up and function of human groups in society. Study is made of culture as the product of group experience, the interaction between the individual and the group, the organization of society and social problems. Specific topics include: social institutions, population, social class, collective behavior, the aged, crime, prejudice, the inner-city poverty, the dropout rate and the generation gap. The course is recommended for college preparatory programs; however, it is open to all students.

International Relations – This semester elective allows students to study current world events and how they relate to the United States. The class will learn about United States foreign policy, its philosophy, vocabulary, and practice in both the historical and contemporary setting. Primary emphasis is given to developments in the 20th century and what is happening at present in the world.

Macro and Micro Economics -- How do the choices you make impact your own wealth as well as the finances of larger society? Economics explains how these economies work. This semester course is designed to give students a better insight into our current market economy. Using real life experiences, hands-on activities and simulations students will better understand their own interactions within the economy with regard to consumption, wages, production, and the global market. This course is an introductory study of basic economics with emphasis on both microeconomics, including money, banking, taxes, and federal spending. Our economic system is compared with other economic systems of the world. This class is vital for all students to be educated participants in the global market. Students planning on attending college in the future should consider this course a necessity. Learn how to make good choices in your own life while learning how the economic world operates and impacts your daily life.

Advanced Placement – Senior Year

If you desire the opportunity to earn an extra grade point and possibly college credit, then the following courses are available. These year long courses offer an in-depth look at the subject being taught.

Macro and Micro Economics
European History
American Government
Psychology