



2021-2022

COURSE CATALOG

HISTORY



SPRINGSIDE CHESTNUT HILL ACADEMY

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 are an essential part of a 21st century education. SCH students study history in inquiry-driven classrooms that promote experiential learning and develop historical empathy. 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. 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. 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. 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, 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

AFRICA IS NOT A COUNTRY : THE HISTORICAL ROOTS OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICA

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

In the media Africa is often portrayed as an undifferentiated mass of underdevelopment, poverty, war, and backwardness. Yet, contemporary Africa is a place of tremendous diversity with vibrant cities, peaceful governments, cutting edge technologies and cultural forms. What forces have shaped modern Africa and led to this mismatch between perception and reality? Using an approach that centers African voices and experiences, this course will allow students to learn the origins of just a few of the complex modern nations that currently exist

in Africa. The course will start with an overview of physical and human geography and then move to a deeper look at the historical forces that have shaped some of modern Africa. Students will look for continuities as well as change and will try to find patterns in the regional histories of African nations. The course will focus on sub-Saharan Africa but will touch on North Africa from time to time when the histories of those countries are relevant to the larger African story. Students will engage in 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 systems. 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.

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS

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

This course will examine barriers to equality that have existed in America at various times during the nation's history and the strategies employed by those who sought to dismantle those barriers, with a focus on the second half of the 20th century. While the experiences of numerous groups will be examined, the primary focus will be on the efforts to guarantee equality to African Americans (from abolitionism to the Black Lives Matter Movement), women and the LGBTQ Rights Movement. In addition to regular assessments, students will conduct an in-depth research project.

CONTAGION: DISEASE THROUGHOUT HISTORY

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

Having experienced pandemic yourself, this course offers opportunities to look at how earlier pandemics and other medical issues have affected societies. How did communities deal with disease outbreaks, and how did their responses affect communities? What happened as societies emerged from disease outbreaks? What do pandemics and epidemics demonstrate about the societies in which they occur? Students will explore the complex and, at times, controversial relationships between disease, medicine, religion, equality, government, and cultural exchange. We will pay particular attention to how societies have confronted and dealt with public health. We will focus on the societal and political role of various public health concerns surrounding communicable diseases like the plague, smallpox, HIV/AIDS, and COVID-19. Students will engage in an in-depth research project

GLOBAL ECONOMICS: AN INTRODUCTION

Grades 11, 12; elective; spring 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.

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.

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 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.