

Social Studies

PHILOSOPHY OF THE SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The Lemont High School Social Studies Department believes students should develop the following characteristics:

- Use of cooperation and collaboration in decision making
- Utilization of analytical and critical thinking skills
- Enhancement of self image
- Understanding of how to function as effective and contributing members of a democratic society

Courses offered within the Social Studies curriculum help students demonstrate an understanding and competency of historical and economic principles as participating citizens in our ever-changing society.

Based on their abilities and course level, students are expected to:

- Attain historical literacy by learning about world events, traditions, patterns and changes
- Make informed decisions that transcend time and cultures
- Understand the human experience by learning how individual and group behaviors impact diverse populations
- Achieve economic literacy by applying the process of choice and the allocation of resources and how they relate to individuals, groups and societies
- Use democratic principles to act responsibly and productively within their community and take part in participatory citizenship

Grading Standards: Student grades are determined based on their performance in the areas of research, discussion, writing and examinations.

CORE COURSES - SOCIAL STUDIES

Human Geography

Grades Course Open To: 9 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course introduces students to a wide range of geographic concepts, ranging from population and migration to different cultures of the world. The content is presented thematically rather than regionally and is organized around the discipline's main subfields: economic geography, cultural geography and political geography. Students are given the opportunity to analyze and evaluate case studies drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today. There is a component of historical information included in the class, providing students a better understanding of topics such as globalization and colonialism. Students develop skills in approaching problems geographically, thinking critically, interpreting documents, and applying geographic concepts to everyday situations. **Note:** This course, or an equivalent, is required for graduation from Lemont High School.

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AP Human Geography

Grades Course Open To: 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0 - weighted for AP

Prerequisite: None

Fees: AP Human Geography exam (paid at fall registration)

Description: This advanced-level course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped humans' understanding, use and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socio economic organization and its environmental consequences. Students learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and application. The course is the equivalent of an introductory college-level course in the subject area, and should prepare students for future Advanced Placement classes in other curricular areas. **Note:** This course satisfies the Human Geography requirement for graduation. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** take the AP Human Geography exam in the spring.

Consumer Education

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Fees: Course fee applies, payable to Joliet Junior College (fee was \$36 for the 2024-25 school year)

Dual/Articulated Credit: 3.0 hours of dual credit (FIN 100) through Joliet Junior College

Description: This course addresses skills that are necessary for students to possess in modern society. Students become aware of the benefits of being an effective consumer in America. They gain knowledge about taking out credit in their own names - including credit cards, college loans and home loans - and are exposed to different methods of saving and investing their money. Students also discover the important choices that consumers must consider when making major purchases, such as houses and automobiles. The course places a strong emphasis on financial planning for college and beyond. Transferable college credit is given upon successful completion of the course. **Note:** This course, or an equivalent, is required for graduation from Lemont High School. **Note:** This course is not accepted by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

U.S. History

Grades Course Open To: 11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course covers events related to the political, economic and social development of the United States, with attention given to the relationship of past events to current affairs. Students are introduced to basic concepts relative to American History, and are expected to discuss a broad variety of problems in American History by developing abilities to analyze critically, synthesize and evaluate subject matter. Through discussion, debate, simulations, lectures, role playing, and research papers, students study a number of areas, ranging from colonial development and the Revolutionary War, to the Civil War and Reconstruction, to World War I and II and new America.

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AP U.S. History

Grades Course Open To: 11-12 **Credit:** 1.0 - weighted for AP

Prerequisite: None

Fees: AP U.S. History exam (paid at fall registration)

Description: With a more advanced and in depth curriculum, this course covers events related to the political, economic and social development of the United States, with attention given to the relationship of past events to current affairs. The course provides students with analytical skills necessary to deal critically with problems and materials in this country's history. Students are introduced to basic concepts relative to American History, and are expected to discuss a broad variety of problems in American History by developing abilities to analyze critically, synthesize and evaluate subject matter. Through discussion, debate, simulations, lectures, role playing, and research papers, students study a number of areas, ranging from colonial development and the Revolutionary War, to the Civil War and Reconstruction, to World War I and II and new America. This course involves mandatory summer reading and writing assignments that must be completed by the first day of class. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** take the AP U.S. History exam in the spring.

American Government, Civics, & Contemporary Issues

Grades Course Open To: 12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course stresses the processes of the American government, how it relates to the community it serves, and aims to prepare students for active civic engagement and democratic citizenship. Students examine the branches of government, the constitution, the bill of rights, separation of powers, and the fundamental beliefs of a democratic society. Additionally, this course exposes students to the critical thinking skills that enable them to discuss, deliberate and debate major social, economic, political, international and ethical issues through the use of a number of techniques, including research, group discussion, debate, deliberation and simulations. An emphasis is placed on fundamental civic skills, logic, ethics, media literacy, and semantic accuracy. Areas of study include modern political and economic systems, civil rights, voters and their behavior, electoral process, foreign affairs, national security, the Illinois constitution and local government, among others.

AP U.S. Government & Politics

Grades Course Open To: 12 **Credit:** 1.0 - weighted for AP

Prerequisite: None

Fees: AP U.S. Government & Politics exam (paid at fall registration)

Description: This advanced-level course gives students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics, as well as analysis of specific examples. Students become familiar with various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that constitute U.S. politics. They also become acquainted with a variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes, including constitutional underpinnings of the U.S. government, political beliefs, political parties, interest groups and mass media, institutions of national government, public policy, and civil rights and liberties. This course meets the school's American Government graduation requirement. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** take the AP U.S. Government & Politics exam in the spring.

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ELECTIVE COURSES - SOCIAL STUDIES

American Icons: 20th Century Through Film

Grades Course Open To: 12 **Credit:** 0.5

Prerequisite: Successful completion of U.S. History or AP U.S. History, as well as a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better; students may be required to complete a college placement exam

Fees: Dual credit course fee applies, payable to Loyola University Chicago (fee was \$195 for the 2024-25 school year)

Dual/Articulated Credit: 3.0 hours of dual credit (HIST 291A) through Loyola University Chicago

Description: This course focuses on 20th century American history and encourages students to consider film as a primary source akin to more traditional documents, photos, and political cartoons. Organized into units based on 20th century generational divisions, students consider how film is used to create a narrative about various time periods in U.S. history and whether that narrative is an accurate reflection of the era at hand. Student eligibility for dual credit uses GPA requirements established by Loyola University.

AP Macroeconomics

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 0.5 - weighted for AP

Prerequisite: None

Fees: AP Macroeconomics exam (paid at fall registration)

Description: This introductory college-level course focuses on principles that apply to an economic system as a whole. Macroeconomics places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination. It also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Students utilize graphs, charts and data to analyze, describe and explain economic concepts. Students are strongly encouraged to take both AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics in the same year. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** take the AP Macroeconomics exam in the spring.

AP Microeconomics

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 0.5 - weighted for AP

Prerequisite: None

Fees: AP Microeconomics exam (paid at fall registration)

Description: This introductory college-level course gives students a thorough understanding of economic principles that apply to the functions of individual decision makers - both consumers and producers - within the economic system. It places a primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students are strongly encouraged to take both AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics in the same year. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** take the AP Microeconomics exam in the spring.

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AP Psychology

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0 - weighted for AP

Prerequisite: None

Fees: AP Psychology exam (paid at fall registration)

Description: This advanced-level course introduces students to the methods of studying human behavior and how the mind functions, and unlike the academic course, meets for a full year. Exploring topics more in depth, students learn about the many areas of the field of psychology and various widely practiced perspectives. A number of areas are studied, from behavior and emotion, to adolescence and adulthood, to abnormal behavior and social psychology. The course provides a background study in a number of areas, including learning, motivation, thinking, intelligence and conflict, among others. Students develop the ability to analyze critically, synthesize and evaluate subject matter through discussion, debate, simulations, lectures, role playing, conducting surveys, observational research, reflective analysis, and interviews of personnel in the field of psychology. The course is intended to prepare students for a college-level course in the subject area, and accordingly, students are expected to do a great deal of reading and writing. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** take the AP Psychology exam in the spring.

AP World History

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0 - weighted for AP

Prerequisite: None

Fees: AP World History exam (paid at fall registration)

Description: This fast-paced course expands on the foundations of world history. Students utilize primary and secondary sources to foster a deeper level of understanding of the history of the world. Students conduct research and apply historical thinking through a variety of activities and assessments, and develop a greater understanding of historical literacy and viewpoints from all geographic regions. Courses of study include early civilizations, empires, comparative religions, colonialism, the evolution of economics, cultural identity, and social experiences from around the globe. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** take the AP World History exam in the spring.

Human Rights & World Affairs

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 0.5

Prerequisite: Grade of A in semester 1 of Human Geography (applies to sophomores only) or successful completion of AP Human Geography

Description: This course helps students identify basic human rights as outlined by the United Nations, and analyzes the roles of the United Nations and the United States in promoting and protecting basic human rights. The course focuses on a number of violations of human rights, including the Armenian Genocide, the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Sudan. Additionally, students examine the extreme violations of human rights and genocidal policies by the governments of China, Burma, Laos and Indonesia, among others. Students analyze the geopolitical difficulties involved in preventing genocide and protecting human rights, and learn to identify the root causes of genocide. The course also examines the creation of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Charter on Genocide, genocide prevention, and the geopolitical issue of human rights and foreign policy. The course examines the policies of the United States in relation to these events, and the abilities of nations to prevent human rights violations and genocide.

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Local History

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Description: This hands-on class expands students' knowledge of one of the most historically rich regions in the country. The course not only chronicles Lemont's history, but also focuses on important themes such as Native American and immigrant history, Chicago as a progressive leader, and the region's importance in the development of the United States throughout the 20th Century. Students are connected to their community in a new way, which increases their sense of citizenship. Students utilize the Lemont Area Historical Society as an important resource, and complete a research project that requires them to gather artifacts from the community in the form of objects and/or oral documentation.

Modern Economics

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course provides an engaging exploration of contemporary economic concepts, with a strong focus on real world applications. Students analyze pressing economic issues such as global trade, income inequality, and the impact of technological innovation. The curriculum introduces environmental economics, examining the interplay between economic growth and sustainability, as well as behavioral economics, which explores how human behavior influences decision making in markets. Through case studies, interactive discussions and hands-on projects, students develop practical skills to critically evaluate economic policies and solutions. This course is ideal for students seeking to understand how economics shapes our world and drives decision making across industries and governments.

Psychology

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course introduces students to the methods of studying human behavior and how the mind functions. Students learn about the many areas of the field of psychology and various widely practiced perspectives. A number of areas are studied, from behavior and emotion, to adolescence and adulthood, to abnormal behavior and social psychology. The course provides a background study in a number of areas, including learning, motivation, thinking, intelligence and conflict, among others. Students develop the ability to analyze critically, synthesize and evaluate subject matter through discussion, debate, simulations, lectures, role playing, conducting surveys, observational research, completing research papers, and through interviews of personnel in the field of psychology.

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Sociology

Grades Course Open To: 11-12 **Credit:** 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course helps students examine humankind in social groups and as individuals, and affords them the opportunity to learn about themselves and others in group behavior. The subjects of various cultures and current social issues such as crime, minorities and war provide for stimulating discussion and projects. Students develop the ability to analyze critically, synthesize and evaluate subject matter through discussion, debate, simulations, lectures, role playing, conducting surveys, observational research, reflective analysis, and interviews of personnel in the field of sociology. A number of subject areas are addressed, from sociological theories and social research, structure and interaction, to race, ethnic groups and social movements and change, among others.

World History

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course provides students perspective of past events and their relationship to the modern world. Students learn how past events have contributed to the shape of modern culture and civilization, and study the geographic regions of ancient civilizations in comparison with today's world. Through the study of ancient civilizations, including Greece and Rome, students learn the major ways in which such past civilizations have affected modern civilization. Other areas of study include the Medieval Period, the Reformation, the Renaissance and the Modern Age, as well as other significant periods and events. Students use multiple resources to participate in both group and individual research projects.