

SOCIAL STUDIES

Global Cultures

Global Cultures introduces and provides insight into global diversity through the analysis of economic, social, political and environmental factors that help define many of the world's major regions. Students focus on the cultural/human geography of societies within those regions of study. They also focus on historical context and contemporary issues that make those regions significant in current world affairs and on their past and present connections with other world regions. This course seeks to create globally competent students with attitudes, values and skills that reflect an openness, interest and positive disposition to all cultures.

Grade Level: 9

Classification: Core

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

World History

The World History course affords students the opportunity to become amateur historians. Students examine several important topics, such as the development of civilizations, the Age of Exploration, industrialization, imperialism, and global conflict over nine distinct time periods. While doing so, students will also develop necessary writing, reading, research, argumentation, and critical thinking skills.

Grade Level: 10

Classification: Core

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Global Cultures

World History Honors

World History Honors presents the interdisciplinary perspective of culture, politics and technology, military as well as economic history to analyze intellectual themes of the world from the Renaissance to the present. The particular focus of this course is to improve student understanding of the world's development through careful essay writing and the learning of ancillary reasoning skills associated with skillful history reading and analysis. Throughout the course, students will investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from approximately 1200 to the present. Students will develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical comparisons; and utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time.

Grade Level: 10

Classification: Core

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Global Cultures and department recommendation

U.S. History

The United States History course is a survey of significant American events from the colonial era to the recent past. Students will learn about a variety of political, diplomatic, economic, social, and cultural events that contributed to the formation of current American society.

Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians including analyzing primary and secondary sources, developing historical arguments, and making historical connections.

Grade Level: 11

Classification: Core

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: World History

AP U.S. History

In AP U.S. History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migrations and settlement; politics and power; American in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

Grade Level: 11

Classification: Core

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: World History and department recommendation

Government and Economics

In this course, students will learn the foundational principles and beliefs of local, state and national government in the United States. They will engage in close examination of case studies related to the U.S. Constitution and the underlying principles of federalism, republicanism, separation of powers, checks and balances, popular sovereignty and individual rights. The economics portion of the course focuses on the basic microeconomic and macroeconomic principles concerning production, consumption and distribution of goods and services in the United States and globally. Throughout all portions of the course, students will also study and develop media literacy skills to be able to effectively obtain, evaluate and use information in making political and economic decisions.

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Classification: Core

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

AP European History

In this Advanced Placement European History course, students analyze the basic events and movements in Europe between 1450 and the present. These events and movements are explored through seven themes: interaction of Europe and the world, economic and Commercial developments, cultural and intellectual developments, states and other institutions of power, social organization and development, national and European identity, and technological and scientific innovation. In addition, students learn the following historical thinking skills: development and processes, sourcing and situations, claims and evidence in sources, contextualization, making connections, and argumentation.

Grade Level: 12

Classification: Core

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

African American History

This course provides a broad historical survey of the African-American experience in the United States. African American History begins with an introduction to the history and culture of West Africa before 1600 and continues through the civil rights movement and issues concerning African Americans today.

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Classification: Elective

Credit: .33

Prerequisite: None

Mexican American History

In Mexican American History, students learn about the history and cultural contributions of Mexican Americans to the United States. They will have opportunities to explore history and culture with relevant film, literature, art, and other media. The course will focus primarily on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. This course is offered in alternating years.

Grade Level: 11 and 12; sophomores with teacher approval

Classification: Elective

Credit: .33

Prerequisite: None

Military History

Students, using the paradigm of war and battle strategy, study leadership, as well as worldwide intercultural conflict as it has developed over time. On the "micro" level, students will study various cultures to see how their geography and cultural values have affected their strategies for survival and how such cultures have adapted themselves with technological developments, organizational strategies, and specific battlefield tactics, and how these factors remain an influence in those areas today. On a macro level, students study the evolution of intercultural relations, focusing on martial conflict such as the development of rules of war and war crimes, along with international diplomacy and other methods of conflict resolution. Finally, students will read and discuss the philosophy of command and engagement and will look at the historical and present global models of effective command.

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Classification: Elective

Credit: .33

Prerequisite: None

Native American History

The purpose of this course is to present a survey of Native American history from the pre-European contact period to the present, highlighting the processes by which Europeans and Euro-Americans dispossessed the various Indian nations of their land and identities, as well as the Indians' efforts to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances. The means by which Native American tribes have preserved their identities and cultures is the keynote to the course, rather than emphasizing the many tragic aspects of their histories.

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Classification: Elective

Credit: .33

Prerequisite: None

Race in American Society

Not only is racism a historical issue, but we live with its legacy every single day. The purpose of this class is to help students understand this phenomenon, how it operated historically and continues to influence society today. Students will learn how to discuss this challenging topic, identify its presence in various aspects of American society, and develop ways to challenge it in their spheres of influence. This course is offered in alternating years.

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Classification: Elective

Credit: .33

Prerequisite: None

Ancient Philosophy

Ancient Philosophy is an introduction to philosophy through some of the writings of the ancient Greek philosophers, Plato and Aristotle. Students will learn to read philosophical texts and to identify, analyze, and criticize the arguments they contain. In the process, students will also learn to use a variety of philosophical concepts.

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Classification: Elective

Credit: .33

Prerequisite: None

Modern Philosophy

Modern Philosophy is an introduction to philosophy through some of the writings of the early modern philosophers, Descartes and Locke, and the 20th-century philosopher, Gilbert Ryle. Students will learn to read philosophical texts and to identify, analyze, and criticize the arguments they contain. In the process, students will also learn to use a variety of philosophical concepts.

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Classification: Elective

Credit: .33

Prerequisite: None

Philosophy of Film

Philosophy of Film is a philosophical investigation of some of the most intelligent films of the last quarter century: Fight Club, Memento, Stranger Than Fiction, Her, and Arrival. After discussing these films in class, students create video essays in which they present and support a philosophical interpretation of each film by making a video that consists of montaged scenes, text slides, and their own narration using the professional film-editing software, Adobe Premiere.

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Classification: Elective

Credit: .33

Prerequisite: None