

Social Studies Department

2023-2024

Introduction:

Social Studies, as defined by the National Council for the Social Studies, is “the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence.” The primary purpose of the Randolph Public Schools social studies program is to provide an academically rigorous environment that produces active critical thinkers and productive, civically competent participants in our society. Social studies education provides learners with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to become active, informed citizens and contributing members of local, state, national, and global communities in the digital age. Students will study civics, government, human rights, geography, economics, history, culture and perspectives as prescribed by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies. Students will explore these disciplinary concepts through diverse sources and from multiple perspectives.

Course Recommendation Process:

Teacher recommendation, classroom performance, and diagnostic assessments are the primary criteria for determining appropriate course levels. When making recommendations for courses, teachers consider the following criteria:

Moving Up a Level:

- An apparent ease with assignments
- An ability to grasp concepts quickly
- A capacity for thinking at a deeper level with greater insight
- An interest in the subject matter more appropriate to a higher-level student

Moving Down a Level:

- Averaging a D or lower
- Struggling or seeming overwhelmed by the work
- An inability to grasp concepts without additional, separate, individual explanation
- Critical thinking and writing skill levels noticeably lower than those of peers
- Lack of motivation to meet the challenges of an accelerated course

****Please note that students who have an A in a class may simply be appropriately placed and are able to shine at that level. Having an A average alone does not indicate that a student should move to a more advanced level. Regarding lack of motivation: If students do not submit work, it is difficult to gauge ability level. Although having difficulties completing homework assignments will naturally impact a student’s grade, homework is only a portion of the average. Therefore, it stands to reason that if a student is appropriately placed, he/she should be able to maintain a C average based on tests, essays, and participation.*

Summer Assignments:

All Advanced Placement (AP) courses will assign mandatory summer assignments to incoming students.

Sequencing:

For each year of high school every student is required to pass a year-long social studies class. Required, year-long social studies classes are offered at different levels. Teacher recommendation, classroom

performance, and diagnostic assessments are the primary criteria for determining appropriate course levels. All Randolph High School social studies courses prepare students for college. In general, students at a higher level are expected to be more independent, more self-disciplined, and more self-motivated.

Course Title (Code)	Grade Level	Length
+World History (SOC110)	9	Full Year
World History – H (SOC120)	9	Full Year
AP World History (SOC550)	9, 12	Full Year
+United States History I (SOC210)	10	Full Year
United States History I – H (SOC220)	10	Full Year
+United States History II (SOC300)	11	Full Year
AP United States History II (SOC500)	11	Full Year
Holocaust & Genocide Studies – H (SOC800)	11, 12	Full Year
AP Economics (Micro/Macro) (SOC530)	11, 12	Full Year
AP Government and Politics (SOC540)	11, 12	Full Year
AP European History (SOC520)	11, 12	Full Year
AP Human Geography (SOC560)	10, 11, 12	Full Year
AP Psychology (SOC510)	11, 12	Full Year
Criminal Justice (SOC930)	11, 12	Full Year
General Psychology (SOC700)	11, 12	Full Year
Gender Studies (SOC986)	9, 10, 11, 12	Semester
World Religions (SOC845)	9, 10, 11, 12	Semester
Economics & Investment (SOC975)	11, 12	Semester
Human Happiness & Well-being (SOC985)	11, 12	Semester
Human Behavior (SOC825)	11, 12	Semester

+ One social studies course is required at grade levels 9-11.

Course Title: World History (SOC110)	
Level/Grade: 9	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: N/A
<p>Course Description: World History is a required course for all grade nine students and meets the New Jersey state graduation requirement for five credits of World History. World History is a comprehensive survey of global history and interaction from 1300 to the modern world. This course will, where applicable, integrate and infuse examples of cultural diffusion and global interactions. The course will include a balance of materials from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and the Middle East. This program will also integrate and infuse information on New Jersey history, Holocaust Studies, and Social Studies oriented vocations into the course of study as mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education.</p>	

Course Title: World History – Honors (SOC120)	
Level/Grade: 9	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: Students will be recommended for this course by 8 th grade teachers using the department placement matrix.
<p>Course Description: World History is a required course for all grade nine students and meets the New Jersey state graduation requirement for five credits of World History. World History Honors provides for advanced work, rigorous and systematic study of major ideas and concepts found in global history. This challenging course requires students to engage fully in problem-seeking, problem-solving, scholarly and creative processes, critical analysis and application, reflective thinking and historical writing. Students are also expected to acquire knowledge of current issues and relate them to themes studied throughout the duration of the course.</p>	

Course Title: AP World History (SOC550)	
Level/Grade: 9, 12	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: For incoming freshman, students will be recommended for this course by 8 th grade teachers using the department placement matrix. For seniors, above average achievement in all previous social studies courses. Students will be required to complete a summer reading assignment.
<p>Course Description: Advanced Placement World History is offered as a high-level course for the World History 9th grade graduation requirement or as an elective course for 12th graders. Students in the course will explore 10,000 years of world history (8,000 BCE to the present) in five major geographical regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. Course themes include social, political, environmental/technological, cultural, and economic developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world. Students will participate in a variety of group work and independent activities that will seek to develop their historical thinking ability and chart cultural diffusion and change over time</p>	

in the course themes and regions. Each student enrolled in this course is strongly urged to take the Advanced Placement Examination in AP World History given by the College Board. In order to prepare for the exam and to develop analytical skills, the course will have a strong focus on Document Based Questions and comparative essay writing.

Course Title: United States History I (SOC210)	
Level/Grade: 11	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: N/A
<p>Course Description: United States History I is a required course for all grade ten students and is the first half of a two-year United States History program that meets the New Jersey state graduation requirement for two years of United States history. This course begins with the colonization of the Americas, moves through the Revolutionary and Early National Period, and then traces the history of the United States through the Gilded Age. Students will develop understanding of the geographic, economic, political, social and cultural realities that shaped the history of the United States.</p>	

Course Title: United States History I – Honors (SOC220)	
Level/Grade: 10	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: Above average achievement in all previous social studies courses. Students will be required to complete a summer reading assignment.
<p>Course Description: United States History I H is the first part of a two-year Advanced Placement program in United States History. This course meets the first part of the New Jersey state graduation requirement for two years of United States History. This course is designed to provide students with a knowledge base to deal critically with the study of United States history. Students will learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance – and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Students will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions based on informed judgment and present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format. Students will develop their skills in free-response essay writing, document-based questions, and the analysis and evaluation of historic information. This course is taught at a level equivalent to an introductory college course in United States history. The course begins with the pre-Columbian period and moves through United States history to the end of Reconstruction and the election of 1876.</p>	

Course Title: United States History II (SOC300)	
Level/Grade: 11	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: Satisfactory completion of United States History I in grade 10.
<p>Course Description: United States History II is a required course for all grade eleven students and is the second half of a two-year United States History program that meets the New Jersey state graduation requirement for United States history. This course content begins in the second half of the 19th century with the study of Progressivism moving through the twentieth century to the present. Students will continue to</p>	

develop their ability to apply geographic, economic, political, social and cultural concepts to the study of United States history. Students will develop their skills in analyzing and evaluating multiple sources of information to draw conclusions.

Course Title: AP United States History II (SOC500)	
Level/Grade: 11	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: Satisfactory completion of United States History I H in grade 10. Students will be required to complete a summer reading assignment.
<p>Course Description: Advanced Placement United States History II is the second part of a two-year Advanced Placement program in United States History. This course completes the New Jersey State graduation requirement for two years of United States history. This course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to deal critically with the study of United States history. Students will learn to assess historical materials -- their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance -- and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Students will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and present reasons and evidence clearly in essay format. Students will further develop their skills in free-response essay writing, document-based questions and the analysis and evaluation of historic information. This course is taught at a level equivalent to an introductory college course in United States history. The course begins with the investigation of the Progressive Movement and moves through the United States' involvement in two world wars to the post-Vietnam Era of the 1970's and 80's and to the present. Students will analyze the social, political, and economic components of the historical periods studied. Each student enrolled in this course is strongly urged to take the Advanced Placement Examination in United States History and the SAT Subject Test in United States History.</p>	

Course Title: Holocaust & Genocide Studies – Honors (SOC800)	
Level/Grade: 11, 12	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: N/A
<p>Course Description: The seminar in Holocaust and Genocide Studies will allow students to use the lessons of history to reflect on the fragility of “civilization.” It will also allow students to become more reflective in their interactions with their fellow human beings and their response to governmental policy and power. Students will begin the course by studying the roots of human nature, personality, and the dynamics of ethical decision-making. The Holocaust will be introduced with a study of the roots of anti-Semitism in Europe. This will be followed by a study of the philosophy, literature, art, music, mores, history and economic circumstances that conditioned the German populace for a mass reception of National Socialism and the embracing of Nazi ideology. The program will then use the insights derived from an intensive analysis of the systematic and methodological destruction of European Jewry, and others, (1938 – 1945) to detect and attempt to understand the consequences of “prejudice in action.” Students will evaluate the actions of the perpetrators, victims, bystanders, rescuers, resisters, liberators and survivors. The course will conclude with students investigating the nature of genocide and mass killings that have occurred in the years following 1945. *Priority is given to grade 12 students.</p>	

Course Title: AP Economics (Micro/Macro) (SOC530)	
Level/Grade: 11, 12	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: Students must attend an orientation meeting held in the spring where required summer work is distributed. Students are required to complete a summer reading assignment.
<p>Advanced Placement Economics is offered as an elective course in which microeconomics and macroeconomics are studied. Topics of study in the microeconomics portion of the course include: learning economic reasoning through a study of markets, the theory of the firm, the factor markets and the relationship of government to business. Topics of study in the macroeconomics portion of the course include: the systematic analysis of the economic challenges that face our nation, the study of measuring economic performance, aggregate supply and demand, money and monetary policy, fiscal policy and the United States in a global economy. Students will participate in a variety of activities designed to prepare them for the Advanced Placement Examination, which is administered by the College Board. This course is the equivalent of introductory college courses in micro and macroeconomics. A strong mathematical background is recommended for students interested in this course. Each student enrolled in this course is strongly urged to take the Advanced Placement Examination in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.</p>	

Course Title: AP European History	
Level/Grade: 11, 12	Length: Full Year
	Pre-requisites: Students must have maintained a “B” average in required social studies courses. Students are required to complete a summer reading assignment.
<p>Course Description: Advanced Placement European History is offered as an elective course. Students in the course will explore European History since 1450 with an emphasis on the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they currently live. Students will engage in the study of European intellectual and cultural history. This will include changes in religious thought and institutions, ideologies characterized as “- isms” (socialism, liberalism, nationalism), and the diffusion of new intellectual concepts among different social groups. The political and diplomatic history, characterized by the rise and functioning of the modern state in its various forms, will be studied. Cultural diffusion will also form a core of student investigation. This includes the diffusion of new intellectual concepts, colonialism, imperialism, decolonization, and the study of social and economic history related to the growth of interdependence in national and world markets. Students will participate in a variety of activities designed to prepare them for the Advanced Placement Examination. Each student enrolled in this course is strongly urged to take the Advanced Placement Examination in European History, which is given by the College Board.</p>	

Course Title: AP Government & Politics (SOC540)	
Level/Grade: 11, 12	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: Students must have maintained a “B” average in required social studies courses, or must have received a specific recommendation from their grade 10 or 11 history teacher. Students are also required to complete a summer assignment.
<p>Course Description: Advanced Placement Government & Politics is offered as a rigorous elective course for juniors and seniors. The course seeks to explore and inform on topics related to political life, behavior, and processes in the United States and international governments. Students will know important facts and concepts pertaining to U.S. and international government and politics; understand typical political processes and behavior and their consequences; analyze and interpret basic data relevant to U.S. and foreign government and politics; critically analyze relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately, and develop their connections across the curriculum. The course follows a nationally recognized curriculum, and students are strongly encouraged to take the corresponding national tests for potential college credit in May. Students who successfully complete this course will have the ability to take two separate Advanced Placement tests. The course emulates a college-level introductory political science course in subject matter, rigor, and class expectations.</p>	

Course Title: AP Human Geography (SOC560)	
Level/Grade: 10, 11, 12	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: an “A” average in A-level courses or a “B” average in honors courses is strongly recommended.
<p>Course Description: Advanced Placement Human Geography explores places around the world with an emphasis on the people who live there. Students will be exposed to the study of geography as a discrete, professional discipline, including various relevant methodologies and tools; use geography as a medium to connect various other disciplines (anthropology, environmental science, sociology, etc.); analyze how human beings interact with each other and the environments they inhabit; observe how human beings organize space culturally, economically, and politically; and understand the processes and patterns that shape and connect all of the foregoing. Each student enrolled in this course is strongly urged to take the Advanced Placement Examination in Human Geography.</p>	

Course Title: AP Psychology (SOC510)	
Level/Grade: 11, 12	Length: Full Year
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: Students must have maintained a "B" average in required social studies courses.
<p>Course Description: The AP Psychology course is intended to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. The student's understanding of psychological methods, theory and practice will increase along with awareness of the many fascinating sub-fields and careers associated with the study of psychology. Along with psychological facts, principles and phenomena, students will also be made aware of the ethics involved in scientific design, execution of research and practice. Diagnoses and treatment modalities associated with abnormal behavior will be focuses of study while detail of the biological versus environmental catalysts of behavior are examined. Finally, the AP Psychology course provides the high school student with a college course experience, as the forms of research required are synonymous with those required in undergraduate and graduate collegiate work. Each student enrolled in this course is strongly urged to take the Advanced Placement Examination in Psychology. Prerequisite: Students must have maintained a "B" average in required social studies courses. Students are required to complete a summer reading assignment.</p>	

Course Title: Criminal Justice (SOC930)	
Level/Grade: 11, 12	Length: Full Year
Dual Enrollment	Pre-requisites: N/A
<p>Course Description: Criminal Justice is a college-level course. Students have the opportunity to earn credits from The County College of Morris (CCM), as well as high school transcript credit, after successfully completing the course. CCM's class syllabus serves as the curriculum outline.</p>	

Course Title: General Psychology (SOC700)	
Level/Grade: 11, 12	Length: Full Year
Dual Enrollment	Pre-requisites: N/A
<p>Course Description: General Psychology is a college-level course. Students have the opportunity to earn credits from The County College of Morris (CCM), as well as high school transcript credit, after successfully completing the course. CCM's class syllabus serves as the curriculum outline.</p>	

Course Title: Gender Studies (SOC986)	
Level/Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12	Length: Semester
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: N/A
<p>Course Description: This course will begin with a survey of basic concepts of feminist theory and the development of gender theory. While global in nature, there will be a focus on gender studies in the United States. Students will assess the definition of femininity, masculinity, ideas of sexuality and gender, and their impact upon modern society. Students will also explore women's unique participation and expression in the advancement of society. In this course, students will be taught to critically examine effective legal policy, the impact of social constructions and enforcement of gender norms, and the development of activism.</p>	

Course Title: World Religions (SOC845)	
Level/Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12	Length: Semester
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: N/A
Course Description: As a course of study, World Religions does not teach religion; it teaches about religion. Course content is presented as an analytical, objective, and balanced survey of the world's most conspicuous mainstream religious traditions. Students will be introduced to the study of religion and familiarized with the beliefs and practices of the major world religions. The course seeks to define and classify religion, highlight commonalities between religious traditions, examine the relationship between religion and society, and investigate the links between religion and individual, national, and cultural identity. Students will have the opportunity to build cultural understanding to support their engagement as active citizens in the pluralistic society of the twenty-first century.	

Course Title: Economics and Investment (SOC975)	
Level/Grade: 11, 12	Length: Semester
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: N/A
Course Description: Basic economic concepts and principles are analyzed and discussed by students in this course. Students will apply economic concepts and principles to current problems in the public and private sectors.	

Course Title: Human Happiness & Well-being (SOC985)	
Level/Grade: 11, 12	Length: Semester
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: N/A
Course Description: Human Happiness and Well-being is a semester elective for juniors and seniors. The objective of the course is to provide students with science-based strategies for living a happier, more fulfilling life. Students will analyze and evaluate modern psychological research and then put the findings into practice in order to learn how to be happier, less stressed, and focus on their strengths to flourish. Students will also look at how to apply these research findings to their own habits and to the community at large	

Course Title: Human Behavior (SOC825)	
Level/Grade: 11, 12	Length: Semester
NCAA Approved Core Course	Pre-requisites: N/A
Course Description: This course is designed as an enrichment course in the social studies and an introduction to the discipline of psychology. Human Behavior is centered on the thematic topics of research, biology and behavior, human growth and development, human learning, and how humans adapt to and interact in a variety of environments. The class will engage in an exploration of the background of the scientific study of human behavior, the determinants of human behavior, and of the personality characteristics of individuals. Students will examine methods used by professional psychologists in studying human behavior and study the interaction between biology and behavior, human growth and development, human learning, and how humans adapt and interact in a variety of environments.	

