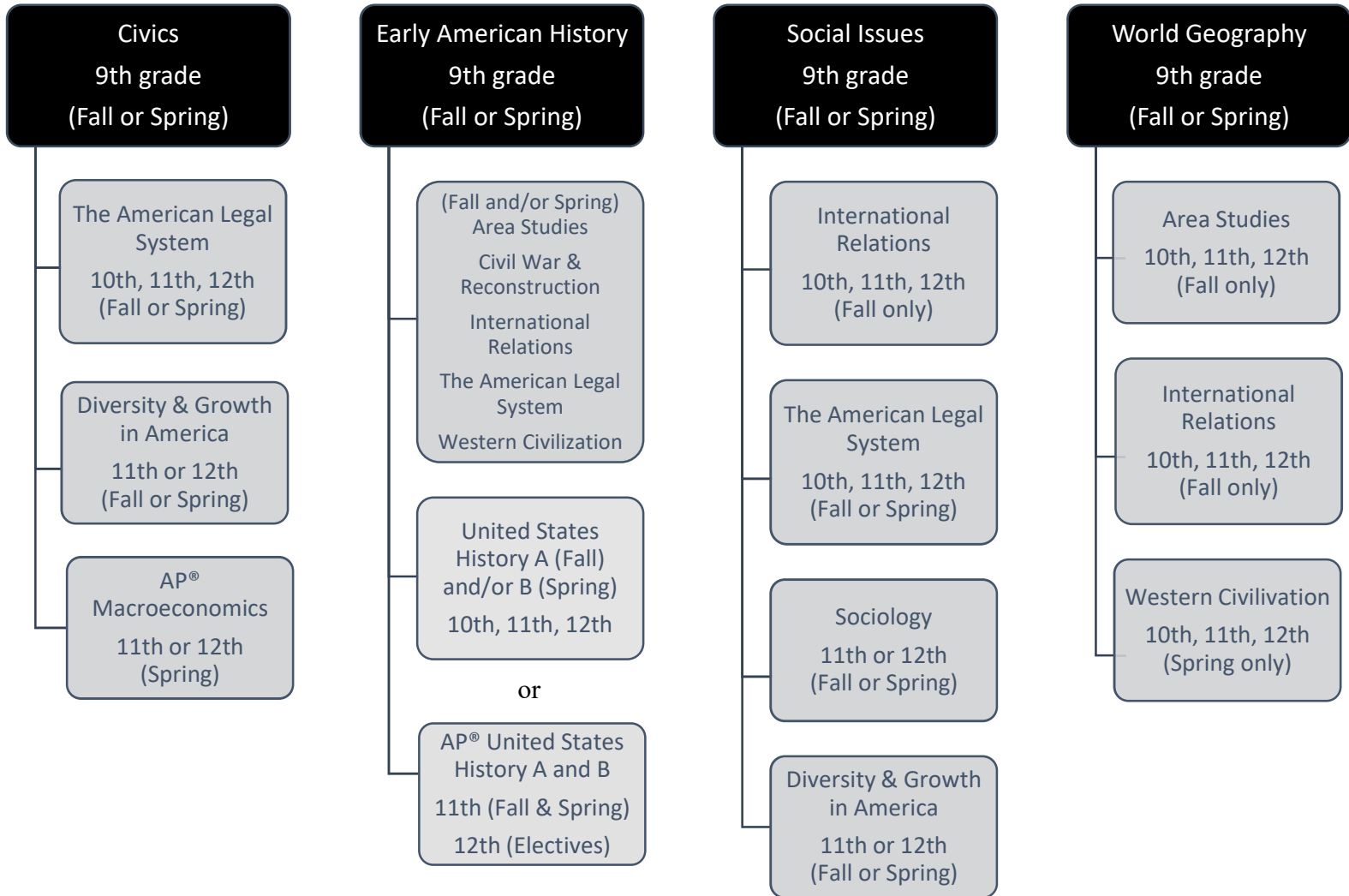


**SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT
COURSE SEQUENCE RECOMMENDATIONS**



12th Grade Courses

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| AP® Psychology | International Relations |
| AP® U.S. History A and/or B | Psychology |
| AP® Macroeconomics | Sociology |
| American Civil War & Reconstruction | The American Legal System |
| American Government | The Sixties in America |
| Area Studies | United States History A and B |
| Diversity & Growth in America | Western Civilization |

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Graduation requirements for social studies:

Five semesters of social studies are required for all students including either one semester of **Civics** at the freshman year **or** one semester of **American Government** during the sophomore, junior, or senior year and two semesters of **United States History** during the sophomore, junior or senior years.

*** Area Studies and Western Civilization may be taken three different times as different content is studied in a three-year rotation.**

Freshman Level

Civics
Early American History
Social Issues
World Geography

Sophomore Level

American Civil War & Reconstruction- A Nation Divided
American Government
Area Studies*
International Relations
The American Legal System
United States History A and B
Western Civilization*

Junior Level

United States History A and B
AP[®] United States History A and B
AP[®] Macroeconomics
American Civil War & Reconstruction- A Nation Divided
Diversity & Growth in America
American Government
Area Studies*
International Relations
Sociology
The American Legal System
The Sixties in America
Western Civilization*

Senior Level

American Civil War & Reconstruction- A Nation Divided
American Government
Area Studies*
AP[®] Macroeconomics
AP[®] Psychology
AP[®] United States History A and/or B
Diversity & Growth in America
International Relations
Psychology
Sociology
The American Legal System
The Sixties in America
United States History A and B
Western Civilization*

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Christopher Busse, Department Chairperson

FRESHMAN COURSE OFFERINGS

CIVICS

1 Semester

Open to freshmen

Prerequisite: None



1/2 credit

Students taking Civics will acquire information and skills designed to promote effective participation in our society. Students will study the power, structure and decision making process of the different levels of government. Emphasis will also be placed upon the rights and freedoms protected by the Constitution as well as the limits and responsibilities associated with them. Through simulations and discussions, students will gain experience in political campaigns, lawmaking and court proceedings. Either Civics taken as a freshman or American Government taken as a sophomore, junior or senior is required for graduation.

To meet graduation requirements, a student must pass this course to demonstrate the required comprehension of the United States Constitution and pass a specific test addressing the Illinois Constitution and Illinois government.

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

1 Semester

Open to freshmen

Prerequisite: None



1/2 credit

This course provides the freshman student with a detailed background in the foundations of American history. It is designed as a study of American history from colonial times through the reconstruction and reunification of the United States following the Civil War. Social, political, military and economic achievements of earlier generations of Americans will be examined. Course requirements may include map work, tests, quizzes, book reports, projects, and other assignments made by the instructor. This course will serve as excellent preparation for the required U.S. History A course or the elective American Civil War & Reconstruction: A Nation Divided course.

SOCIAL ISSUES

1 Semester

Open to freshmen

Prerequisite: None



1/2 credit

The goal of Social Issues is for the student to become aware of the major issues of the day and have an in depth understanding and appreciation of current events. In this course students will examine the historical, cultural, economic, and geographic factors which have raised issues to a level of concern on a local, national, and global level. Students will engage in research and problem solving to better understand and assess a variety of significant and contemporary issues. To further students' understanding of topics, the course uses a variety of daily news, online media, political cartoons, and newscasts to support class discussions and learning activities. Additionally, students may participate in group activities, presentations, and research projects to better understand the world around them and take informed action.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

1 Semester

Open to freshmen

Prerequisite: None



1/2 credit

World Geography will cover both physical and human geography concepts of the world. Different geographic themes will be utilized to enhance student understanding of the United States and other regions of the world. This course will create an understanding of the increased globalization of the world that will help students recognize the interdependence of the United States to other world powers and better prepare students for the other academic offerings of the social studies department. Students will learn about world cultures, regions, history, and study maps to learn about landforms, climates, resources, and topography.

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SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, SENIOR COURSE OFFERINGS

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION - A NATION DIVIDED

NCAA

1 Semester (Fall) 1/2 credit
Open to sophomores who successfully earn a grade of "A" in Early American History. Open to juniors who successfully earned a grade of an "A" in Early American History and have successfully completed U.S. History A and B. Open to seniors that have successfully completed U.S. History A and B.

One of the most divisive and important events in American history, the American Civil War pitted countrymen against countrymen in the new and developing republic of the United States of America. Among the many issues at stake were the role of central government, state's rights, slavery, and the fate of the Union itself, which had borne our fledgling nation through the American Revolutionary war and the War of 1812.

Grim, brutal, and utterly personal, the Civil War claimed more American lives than any other war fought before or since the founding of the United States. No other war contains such philosophical and emotional impact, since the issues and concerns that were on the hearts and minds of the politicians, statesmen, combatants, and ordinary citizens of the late nineteenth century can still be seen in evidence even in modern times.

This course attempts to summarize and present the major events and battles related to the American Civil War in chronological order. In addition, this course will set forth the major political issues and philosophies that set the stage for the Civil War, sustained the conflict, and continue to linger on to this day in the hearts and minds of Americans. Finally, a list of the major figures related to the Civil War will be presented to highlight each notable person's contributions to the struggle itself and to the overall development of our nation.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

NCAA

1 Semester 1/2 credit
Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors (Priority will be given to seniors who need to meet graduation requirements)
Prerequisite: None

American Government offers the students the chance to investigate a wide range of government actions, purposes, structures and problems from the international to the local level. The role of government and its effects on the freedom of the individual, and conversely, the duty and extent of the individual's influence on government are emphasized. Students are encouraged to simulate conditions and study problems facing various levels and branches of the United States Constitution and Illinois

Constitution from a basic underlying theme throughout the course. Students will have to be informed of current events and be able to comment on them in class. This course is required for all students not taking Civics as a freshman. This course meets the requirements of Illinois Public Law 195 for graduation from a state-supported institution.

To meet graduation requirements, a student must pass this course to demonstrate the required comprehension of the United States Constitution and pass a specific test addressing the Illinois Constitution and Illinois government.

AREA STUDIES

NCAA

1 Semester (Fall) 1/2 credit
Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Prerequisite: None

Students who have already had Area Studies may enroll in this course in subsequent years and receive separate credit.

Specific areas of the world and their inter-relationships with the world are studied.

2023-2024 Middle East – North Africa

2024-2025 Russia – Eurasian States – Eastern Europe

2025-2026 Latin America – China – Japan

A general introduction will highlight the basic characteristics of the world in general today. Emphasis is placed on geography, population, economics, historical origins, and the culture of the specific regions under study. Notebooks are kept, national profiles are developed, biographies reviewed and case studies are evaluated from the different areas.

AP[®] MACROECONOMICS

NCAA

1 Semester (Spring) 1/2 credit
Open to juniors and seniors
Prerequisite: Students must have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better

The objective of this course in macroeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination, and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth and international economics. Instruction will rely on applications to test the insight economic theories provide for understanding the context of today's economic conditions. This approach to the study of economics goes beyond students only studying the facts

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and theories in an abstract and disconnected manner. To increase students' appreciation for economics, a variety of teaching and learning methods will be used to create an engaging learning environment for students throughout the course.

The course is designed to prepare students for college level work in this area and the AP[®] Macroeconomics exam administered in May by the College Board for possible college credit. Taking the AP[®] exam requires an extra fee paid to the College Board. However, students are not required to take the exam as a part of the course.

DIVERSITY & GROWTH IN AMERICA **NCAA**

1 Semester 1/2 credit

Open to juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: Completion of, and/or, concurrent enrollment in either U.S. History A or B or APUSH[®] A or B.

Diversity is an unquestioned element of American society. A recurring theme/topic in United States history is how marginalized and disenfranchised groups, as defined by race, gender, religion, culture, and socioeconomic class, struggle through the past and present to overcome the social, political/legal, and economic obstacles standing in the way of a more complete realization of the American ideal of equality. The course topics will be Illinois standards based dedicated primarily to the experiences of the following groups: Asian Americans, Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, LGBTQ+, and Women. Both history and contemporary themes will be utilized to view challenges and contributions of these non-majority and/or historically marginalized groups.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS **NCAA**

1 Semester (Fall) 1/2 credit

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: None

This course is a must for students that are interested in the world around us. International Relations is a semester study of the current disputes, controversies, problems, and relationships that exist among the nations of the world. Students will examine current concerns, issues, historical influences, and U.S. foreign policy in areas such as Europe, Russia, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Africa. In addition, students will study international diplomacy, the structure, function and limitations of the United Nations and worldwide concerns, such as the global environment, that impact all nations and their people.

PSYCHOLOGY **NCAA**

1 Semester 1/2 credit

SWIC Dual Credit Course

Open to seniors

Prerequisite: None

Psychology is a semester course open to seniors. It introduces students to a scientific understanding of human behavior. The following topics are explored in both theoretical and practical means: learning, intelligence, development, personality, mental health and social interaction. Experimentation will be implemented whenever possible to apply the theoretic concepts to the individual. Students are encouraged to pursue areas of special interest. For students desiring college credit, students may elect to enroll for three (3) semester hours of college credit through the dual credit program available through Southwestern Illinois College.

AP[®] PSYCHOLOGY **NCAA**

1 Semester (Spring) 1/2 credit

SWIC Dual Credit Course

Open to seniors

Prerequisite: Students must have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.

The AP[®] Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. It is expected students who choose to enroll in this course, will be able to analyze and interpret a college-level textbook and communicate, both written and verbally, at a college level.

For students desiring college credit, the course is designed to prepare students for the AP[®] Psychology exam administered in May by the College Board for possible college credit. Taking the AP[®] exam requires an extra fee paid to the College Board. However, students are not required to take the exam as a part of the course. Students may also choose to enroll for three (3) semester hours of college credit through the dual credit program available through Southwestern Illinois College.

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SOCIOLOGY

1 Semester

NCAA

1/2 credit

Open to juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: None

Sociology is a one semester course open to juniors and seniors. Initial emphasis is spent defining sociology and exploring the basic perspectives of the discipline. There is an emphasis on culture and society and how they have evolved and changed. These changes can be linked to the theoretic change in the discipline itself. The basic institutions will be explored from both a conflict and functionalism view. Current trends in sociological research will be explored. Group projects and role playing will assist in the understanding of group behavior.

THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM

1 Semester

NCAA

1/2 credit

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: None

Students will study constitutional law as well as concepts related to criminal and civil law. The course will allow students to study the concepts of power, authority, liberty and equality found in the supreme law of the land, the U.S. Constitution. The different levels of the court system and their respective roles will also be covered. Emphasis will be placed on the role of the Supreme Court interpreting the Constitution and the major cases it has decided.

Note: *This course will not replace the United States Constitution requirement required by state law. That requirement can only be fulfilled by taking Civics or American Government.*

THE SIXTIES IN AMERICA

1 Semester (Spring)

NCAA

1/2 credit

Open to juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: Earned a passing grade in United States History B

This course is an elective course which will explore the political, economic, military, and cultural elements of one of the most turbulent periods of American history. The course will be structured around thematic units which will study in depth the vital areas of the decade's history that over-lap in one defining period. Units will include extensive study, research, and analysis of primary source documents and other relevant materials from the period about the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, Vietnam and its role in the Cold War, the social and political divide between conservatives and liberals in America, the emergence of cultural and social movements (Hippies, feminism, environmentalism, multiculturalism, etc.), and finally the impact of music and writings over the entire decade.

UNITED STATES HISTORY A AND B

1 Semester Each

NCAA

1/2 credit per semester

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: *Sophomores – Must have successfully completed at least one social studies course at the ninth grade with a grade of B or greater and have a recommendation(s) from their social studies teacher(s).*

All students must have completed United States History A prior to enrolling in United States History B.

These are required courses designed as a survey of the history of the United States. United States History A will be a study of late 19th century American history through The Great Depression and New Deal (1930's). United States History B will be a study of U.S. History from World War II to contemporary times. The courses will stress the important aspects of the social, political, military, and economic achievements of earlier generations of Americans. Course requirements may include mapwork, tests, quizzes, book reports, projects, and other assignments made by the instructor.

AP[®] UNITED STATES HISTORY A AND B

1 Semester Each

NCAA

1/2 credit per semester

Open to juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: *Students must have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better. All students choosing to enroll in AP[®] United States History to meet graduation requirements, must have completed AP[®] United States History A prior to enrollment in AP[®] United States History B.*

Prerequisite for elective credit: *Students may enroll in this course during either the fall and/or spring semesters as an elective offering for dual credit or preparation for the APUSH exam as long as they completed both United States History A and United States History B earning the grade of "A".*

AP[®] U.S. History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university U.S. history course. 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, 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. The course also provides seven themes that students explore throughout the course to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society. It is expected students who choose to enroll in this course, will be able to analyze and interpret a college-level textbook and communicate, both written and verbally, at a college level.

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WESTERN CIVILIZATION

1 Semester (Spring)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: None

NCAA

1/2 credit

Students who have already had Western Civilization may enroll in this course in subsequent years and receive separate credit. Students who elect to take Western Civilization A, B, and C, will be well prepared and are encouraged to take the World History Advanced Placement Test during the spring of their senior year.

2023-2024 WESTERN CIVILIZATION A

The Roots of Mankind: Prehistory to 500 B.C. This is a study of man's ancient past with the emphasis being placed upon the development of civilized man, early civilizations, and our debts to ancient man. The course includes the foundations of written languages, religions, architecture, science and our culture in general. A variety of teaching methods will be used.

Greeks, Gallies and Gladiators – 500 B.C. – 476 A.D.

This includes a comprehensive study of Grecian-Roman History. The culture, way of life, and history of the ancient Greeks and Romans will be studied. Such famous figures of the past as Julius Caesar, Hannibal, and Alexander the Great will be integral parts of this course. The importance of this classical age is immense. The world that surrounds the student today is shaped by the recurrent appearance of concepts, materials and institutions that were created and passed on to us by these ancient masterminds. Many of the more sensational aspects of the ancients will also be examined. This will include a look at gladiators, power-crazed emperors, helpless slaves, ruthless assassins and the utterly corrupt rich. Using tests, readings, reports, and projects the student will acquire a new and self-rewarding background on one of man's most interesting and exciting eras.

2024-2025 WESTERN CIVILIZATION B

The Middle Ages and Europe in Transition: 500 A.D. – 1400

In this course the student will find out what it was like to live in a time when a strong arm and a sword were the only law. This age of barbarity and cruelty has been one of the most violent and long-suffering in the history of mankind. The role of the church and its religious beliefs and even superstitions will be examined. The nobles and their superstitions will be examined. The nobles and their armed retainer will be seen as the true power of the Middle Ages tempered only slightly by a church which itself was more interested in money than morals. Find out what it was like to march on a crusade, work in a guild, sail on a Viking ship, pray in a monastery, or die on the rack. This course is a must for any that have ever been charmed by the idea of knights, castles, and fair ladies.

Crusaders, Explorers and Enlightenment: 1400-1830

This course will deal with the birth of the national state. Out of the chaos of the Middle Ages, strong kings will unite peoples in more peaceable and ordered societies. Many of these cases of unification, however, will be accomplished with blood, iron, and conquest. Once nations are established, war does not cease, but is instead redirected from between small geographic areas to between the new national organs. Gradually during this period, a revival of the art, culture, and architecture of the ancient past will establish itself again in Europe. Great artists, leaders, and religious reformers such as Michelangelo, Henry VIII and Martin Luther will be surveyed. Having achieved a primitive level of educated humanity, the men of Europe will then strike out to establish their control over other parts of the world. Having developed advanced weapons and ships, such explorers as Columbus and Cabot made great inroads for European hegemony in far lands. The course will close with an examination of the French Revolution and Napoleon. One cannot understand the modern world without the understanding of the ideas and motivations of this great and changing period.

2025-2026 WESTERN CIVILIZATION C

Revolution, Imperialism and World War 1830-1945

This course is designed to give the student an understanding of the roots of modern Europe. Emphasis will be placed upon World War I and World War II with stress being placed upon leadership, military developments, and strategies. The primary concern of the course will be causes, outcomes, and aftermaths of almost two hundred years of constant warfare between European powers.