

SOCIAL STUDIES

The following chart lists the courses the Social Studies Department offers to students in each of the four years of the high school career. The United States History and American Government courses have an honors level option available. Although the graduation requirement is two units, the entering student should be aware that most graduating seniors have acquired three or more units of social studies. Students planning college majors in the social science area are advised to take as many social studies credits as can be reasonably planned.

RTHS requires two earned social studies credits for graduation. The two units must include one and one half units of United States History and one-half unit of American Government.

***Grade level designations apply except when a student needs to make up previously failed required classes.**

<u>AVAILABLE 2021-2022 COURSES</u>			
✿Registration fee for AP Exams approximately \$93.00			
<u>COURSE</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>	<u>PREREQUISITE</u>	<u>GRADE LEVELS</u>
World Geography 1	1/2 unit—one semester	No	9, 10, 11, 12
World Geography 2	1/2 unit—one semester	No	9, 10, 11, 12
World History	1 unit—two semesters	No	9, 10, 11, 12
American Government/Civics	1/2 unit—one semester	Yes (Grade Level)	*9, 10
✿AP American Government/Civics	1/2 unit—one semester	No	10
U.S. History 1	1/2 unit—one semester	Yes (Grade Level)	*10
Honors U.S. History 1	1/2 unit—one semester	Yes (Grade Level)	10
U.S. History 2	1 unit—two semesters	Yes (Grade Level)	*11
✿AP U.S. History 2	1 unit—two semesters	Yes (Grade Level)	11
Minority U.S. History	1/2 unit—one semester	No	9, 10, 11, 12
Sociology	1/2 unit—one semester	Yes (Grade Level)	11, 12
Psychology	1/2 unit—one semester	Yes (Grade Level)	11, 12
Contemporary Issues	1/2 unit—one semester	Yes (Grade Level)	12



SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD GEOGRAPHY 1

Prerequisite: none

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1/2 unit – one semester

Purpose Statement: Students will examine the fundamental building blocks of geography, as well as explore the physical and cultural geographic aspects of the U.S. and Canada, Latin America, and Europe.

1. Students will analyze the concepts of physical geography.
2. Students will examine the facets of human geography.
3. Students will apply the concepts of physical geography to the U.S. and Canada, Latin American, and Europe.
4. Students will apply the concepts of human geography to the U.S. and Canada, Latin America, and Europe.
5. Students will understand basic map and reading skills as they relate to geography.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY 2

Prerequisite: None. *World Geography 1 is suggested, but not required*

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1/2 unit – one semester

Purpose Statement: Students will review the fundamental building blocks of geography as well as analyze the physical and cultural geographic aspects of Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Australia and Oceania.

1. Students will review the concepts of physical and human geography.
2. Students will apply the concepts of physical geography to Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Australia and Oceania.
3. Students will apply the concepts of human geography to Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Australia and Oceania.
4. Students will understand key map and reading skills that apply to World Geography.

WORLD HISTORY

Prerequisite: None

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1 unit – two semesters

Purpose Statement: When taking World History, students learn, study, and research the similarities and differences between the past and present. By taking this course students will understand how the history of the world has developed and changed over time.

1. Students will study the early river valley civilizations of the world.
2. Students will study the impact of Greek and Roman culture on world society.
3. Students will study the effects of the Middle Ages in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.
4. Students will learn about the Renaissance, Reformation, and Age of Discovery.
5. Students will study the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era and analyze how these events changed history.
6. Students will study the origins of communism and its impact on the country of Russia.
7. Students will study Chinese history from ancient times to the present.
8. Students will study the Middle East from the Ottoman Empire to the modern age.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT and CIVICS

Prerequisite: None

Grade Levels: *9, 10

Credit: 1/2 unit – one semester

**Open to 11, 12 grade levels when still needing American Government and Civics credit*

Purpose Statement: Students will examine the basics of federal, state and local government. Students will also become aware of their responsibilities as citizens of the United States and the guardians of the ideals of the Constitution.

1. Students will identify the roles and structures of the three branches of US government.
2. Students will understand the process of campaigns, elections and political parties in the US
3. Students will distinguish between local, state, and federal government structures
4. Students will demonstrate recognize their constitutional rights.
5. Students will know the motivations behind the flag code.
6. Students will enhance their comprehension of readings regarding governmental processes.

American Government and Civics is a required course for graduation.



AP AMERICAN GOVERNMENT and CIVICS (Honors Credit)

Fees: Registration cost for AP exam (approximately \$93) Fee waivers available for eligible students

Prerequisites:

Grade Levels: 10

Credit: ½ unit – one semester.

Purpose Statement: This course is designed to give students an in depth knowledge of and an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. In addition, the course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement United States Government test given each year in May. Students who score well on this test may receive up to six hours of college credit. Students will be required to complete various readings and write numerous essays in order to prepare for the AP test. A majority of the work for this class will be completed outside of school, and much of the reading will be college level. Students who choose to take the AP exam in May, may do so in lieu of a final exam.

1. Students will analyze the interactions of the three branches of government, at the state and federal level, while examining the influence of bureaucracy on all three.
2. Students will appraise the acts that created American government.
3. Students will assess the actions of the government in establishing and maintaining constitutional rights.
4. Students will critique the process of campaigns and elections in terms of democracy.
5. Students will compare the differences in political parties and hypothesize the causes.
6. Students will debate the role of mass media and interest groups on government

American Government and Civics is a required course for graduation.

U.S. HISTORY 1

Prerequisite: None

Grade Level: *10

Credit: 1/2 unit – one semester

**Open to 11, 12 grade levels when still needing U.S. History 1 credit*

Purpose Statement: The student will gain an understanding of the national experience of the United States from its founding through Reconstruction. In doing so, students will examine how these events both unified our country and created deep divisions.

1. Students will explore the colonization of American and the creation of an American identity against the British
2. Students will evaluate the first governments of country and the crises that challenged the new government
3. Students will analyze the expansion of the nation and the politics of Monroe and Jackson.
4. Students will focus on early reform movements, motivations for Westward expansion, and the causes of the Civil War (1840-1860).
5. Students will evaluate how well the Civil War and Reconstruction fixed the problems of sectionalism and grew a nationalistic identity.

U.S. History 1 is a required course for graduation.

HONORS U.S. HISTORY 1

Prerequisite:

Grade Level: 10

Credit: 1/2 unit – one semester

Purpose Statement: Students will examine the early history of the United States with emphasis on critical analysis of early themes in American history. In addition, students will learn to evaluate primary and secondary source material, develop historical perspectives, and present them in writing.

1. Students will assess the motivations for and affects of the European discovery, exploration, and colonization of the North American continent (1492-1763).
2. Students will explain the formation of a new “American” identity and its role in American independence and early government (1763–1800).
3. Students will examine the roles of Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe in further establishing and expanding the nation (1800-1828).
4. Students will evaluate the impact of the Jacksonian Democrats on the government and the nation (1828–1840).
5. Students will examine early nineteenth century reform movements, motivations for Westward expansion, and the causes of the Civil War (1840-1860).

U.S. History 1 is a required course for graduation.

U.S. HISTORY 2

Prerequisite: None
Grade Level: *11
Credit: 1 unit – two semesters

**Open to 12 grade level when still needing
 U.S. History 2 credit*

Purpose Statement: The student will continue the exploration of the national experience that was begun previously by examining events beginning with urbanization after the Civil War through the most recent historical events.

1. Students will summarize the problems of the Industrial Revolution and the Gilded Age and the solutions of the Progressive Era, including the role of U.S. Imperialism. (1865-1900).
2. Students will trace American foreign policy during the First World War and societal changes during the “Roaring Twenties,” (1914-1929).
3. Students will explore the creation and the impact of the Great Depression (1929-1941)
4. Students will connect the events of World War II to the daily life in the 1950s (1941-1959).
5. Students will articulate the origins, key events, and the conclusion of the Cold War (1945–1991).
6. Students will discuss the social reforms of the 1960s and 1970s (1955-1979)
7. Students will discover the implications of 1980s conservatism and the rapid globalization of the 1990s
8. Students will outline the events of recent history and their impact on today’s world.

U.S. History 2 is a required course for graduation.

AP U.S. HISTORY 2 (Honors Credit)

Fees: Registration cost for AP exam
 (approximately \$93) Fee waivers available for eligible students

Prerequisite:
Grade Level: 11
Credit: 1 unit – two semesters

Purpose Statement: Students will examine the diverse history of the United States through analysis of a multitude of key issues from American history. This analysis will include the interpretation of primary and secondary source documents, the synthesis of opinions, and the development of research-based historical perspective. Additionally, this class will prepare the student for the Advanced Placement U.S. History test.

1. Students will examine the diversity of the American people and the relationships among different groups.
2. Students will explain the development and views of the American national identity.
3. Students will analyze the causes of the demographic changes of the United States, and the economic, social, and political effects of these changes.
4. Students will evaluate the changes in trade, commerce, and technology, and the effects of capitalist development, labor and unions, and consumerism.
5. Students will explain the factors that brought about the increasing engagement with the rest of the world from the fifteenth century to the present.
6. Students will assess the growth of American political traditions.
7. Students will examine the causes and effects of diverse reform movements in American history.
8. Students will assess the impact of armed conflict on American foreign policy, politics, economy, and society.
9. Students will develop essential skills necessary for the advanced study of U.S. History.

U.S. History 2 is a required course for graduation.



MINORITY U.S. HISTORY

Prerequisite: None

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1/2 unit – one semester

Purpose Statement: This course is designed to give students an overview of U.S. History through the eyes of diverse minority groups. Minority History will make use of short readings and multimedia resources in conjunction with classroom experiences. The student will be engaged in projects and activities which reinforce skills and knowledge to understand multicultural societies.

1. Students will examine the accomplishments of African Americans in U.S. History.
2. Students will evaluate the role of women in American Society.
3. Students will identify significant contributions of Latino Americans to U.S. culture.
4. Students will distinguish the contributions of unique minority groups (Asian, Native, Southern Asian, etc.).
5. Students will diagram connections between different minority groups and the issues of today.

SOCIOLOGY

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing

Credit: 1/2 unit – one semester

Purpose Statement: Students will create a better understanding of the future by exploring values, roles, and different cultural backgrounds while developing a more holistic approach to their world.

1. Students will historically define Sociology.
2. Students will define the methods used by sociologists to determine behavior.
3. Students will determine how culture influences their own behavior.
4. Students will explore how ethnocentrism and sanctions impact our lives.

PSYCHOLOGY

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing

Credit: 1/2 unit – one semester

Purpose Statement: The course in Psychology has been designed to give the student an eclectic approach in order to develop an overall view of the subject. Students will explore philosophy, abnormality, personality, and recreational drugs in order to create a better understanding of individual's behavioral pattern.

1. Student will develop an understanding of the history of Psychology.
2. Students will recognize the importance of personality influences.
3. Students will determine the varying degrees of abnormal behavior in our society.
4. Students will develop a better understanding of how dangerous "recreational drugs" can be.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Prerequisite: Senior standing

Credit: 1/2 unit – one semester

Purpose Statement: Students will examine and evaluate the world they live in on the local, national and global scale. In addition, students will start to analyze their own feelings and values on issues that affect all Americans. Students will be expected to present in front of the class on a variety of topics throughout the semester.

1. Students will examine current events at the local, national, and international level.
2. Students will assess typical teenage actions and life choices.
3. Students will characterize national concerns.
4. Students will evaluate international problems.