Inspiring Excellence
Upper Merion Area School District
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Upper Merion Area School District
Curriculum Information for Parents and Community

Social Studies Department

The secondary Social Studies department in Upper Merion instructs students in history, geography, government, and economics. Students investigate primary and secondary sources, as well as visuals and multimedia in the course of their studies.

Ninth Grade
Humanities is our ninth-grade social studies course. In the first year at the high school, students participate in Humanities, our interdisciplinary course facilitated by a pair of teachers, one from the English department and one from the social studies department. The Humanities course follows a thematic curriculum, exploring: Identity, Traditions & Transitions, Borders, and Resistance & Resiliency.

Tenth Grade
World History provides the framework for our tenth-grade social studies course. This course provides a choice for the student to select the College Prep or an Advanced Placement level. Units of study include: the formation of nation-states and trade, empires and transoceanic exploration, revolutions and industrialization, global conflict and decolonization. This global history course begins c. 1200 and goes through modern times.

Eleventh Grade
American Cultures-College Prep or Advanced Placement United States History are the options in 11th-grade social studies. This traditional American History survey course covers c. 1491 to the present through political, social, cultural, and economic lenses. Students analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments.

Twelfth Grade
In students' senior year, they must complete either a semester of Government or a semester of Economics but most students take both. Students can also opt to take AP United States Government and Politics as a full-year course.

Students need successful completion of 3.5 years of high school Social Studies in order to meet graduation requirements.

To see our full Program of Studies, look here:
https://www.umasd.org/Page/5563