

SOCIAL STUDIES

The content provided is current and timely as of December 2023. Information is presented in summary form and policies, procedures, fees and course titles are subject to change.

Three credits of social studies must be earned by all students at Horizon in order to satisfy graduation requirements. Due to the district's new course realignment process that began in the 2023/24 school year, freshmen must enroll in World History/Geography or AP World History and sophomores and juniors must enroll in US History I/II (this will satisfy the state's US History Requirement for graduation).

WORLD HISTORY/WORLD GEOGRAPHY - 3190

9 **1 credit**

World History and Geography is a year-long course examining the major civilizations of past and present. This course concentrates on humanity's more significant political, economic, cultural, and intellectual achievements. Content includes Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. The impact of geography, nationalism, science and technology are emphasized.

AP WORLD HISTORY – 3205

9 **1 credit**

AP World History Modern is an introductory college-level modern world history course. Students cultivate their understanding of world history from c. 1200 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

U.S. HISTORY - 3010

10 **1 credit**

The course examines U.S. History from the Post Reconstruction era to the present. The study of historical periods in the United States provides the framework for integration across content areas. This is a required course for all 10th 11th grade students.

NOTE: This class satisfies Colorado's high school US History requirement.

AP U.S. HISTORY - 3025

10 **1 credit**

This course is an option for sophomore and junior students who are still required to take an 11th grade US history class but would like the additional challenge of preparing for the Advanced Placement Exam in United States History. Because this is an AP class, students must demonstrate an exceptionally high degree of self-motivation and responsibility to be successful. Course content will be expanded to begin with the colonial era but still finish with the 20th century. Because essay writing is an important component of the AP test, writing skills will be emphasized. Students must take the AP US History national exam in May. A passing score on this test can enable students to earn college credit. Students should talk with their current Social Studies teacher to see if this is an appropriate option for them.

NOTE: This class satisfies Colorado's high school US History requirement.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

11 **.5 credits**

This semester-long course is designed to introduce students to basic financial literacy skills to support them in making responsible financial decisions into adulthood. The course broadly covers behavioral economics and applying economic reasoning to financial decision making. Students then explore concepts and practice the skills necessary for financial independence more in depth. Topics include: saving and investing, managing credit and debt, financial planning for both short and long-term goals, college and career planning, maintaining a budget, and insuring and managing risks. Students will develop their own financial planning portfolio and gain the information and skills they need to implement a life-long plan for financial success.

U.S. GOVERNMENT- 3905

11

.5 credits Paired with Personal Financial Literacy for the full 1.0 Social studies credit.

This course is for students who did not take the U.S. Government course in 9th grade. U.S. Government - Comprehensive courses provide an overview of the structure and functions of the U.S. government and political institutions and examine constitutional principles, the concepts of rights and responsibilities, the role of political parties and interest groups, and the importance of civic participation in the democratic process. This course may examine the structure and function of state and local governments and may cover certain economic and legal topics. Students will be able to understand:

- Purposes and principles of government
- Origins of U.S. government – U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Political parties and their roles
- Public opinion and interest groups
- Three branches of the U.S. Government
- Government at the local and state level and their role in policymaking
- Comparative governments

Note: Successful completion of U.S. Government is required for graduation.

AP U.S. GOVT&POLITICS- 3095

11, 12

1 credit

This is a senior elective that offers students a nonpartisan introduction to foundational political concepts that define the constitutional system of the United States. Per College Board's *Course Description*, "students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project."

WORLD ISSUES – 3270

12

1 credit

In World Issues students will examine major political, social, economic, religious, military, scientific and cultural issues in the world today. Students will develop their knowledge of history, economics and government to synthesize current issues and explore possible solutions. This course will help students make sense of the modern world. Students should expect to participate in class discussions and seminars, complete reading/writing assignments and relevant research that will explore how global citizens impact our world.

PARTICULAR TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY – 3106

1 credit

12

This **SEMINAR–BASED** course examines concepts in philosophy, including identity, reality, morality and beauty. Students can expect daily readings, discussions, seminars, presentations, research–based writing, and, most importantly, **THINKING**. This course will enable students to discover philosophical connections between the sciences, literature and art. Particular Topics in Philosophy is not a general overview of the subject of philosophy, but rather an exploration of big ideas and their impact on our world.

PSYCHOLOGY - 3110

11, 12

.5 credit

This course will introduce the student to the study of individual human behavior. Students will learn a variety of content that typically includes (but is not limited to) an overview of the field of psychology, topics in human growth and development, personality, behavior, and abnormal psychology. Students can expect weekly reading, discussing, seminars, simulations, presentations, research, and writing.

SOCIOLOGY - 3120**11, 12****.5 credit**

Sociology courses introduce students to the study of human behavior in society. Topics may include culture, socialization, deviance, social problems, and social change. Students can expect weekly reading, discussing, seminars, simulations, presentations, research, and writing.

AP PSYCHOLOGY - 3115**12****1 credit**

AP Psychology introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of humans and animals. Students are exposed to each major subfield within psychology, and will examine the methods that psychologists use in their science and practice. This course follows a College Board approved curriculum, and is designed to parallel a college-level psychology course

CIVICS & CONSTITUTIONAL LAW - 3090**11, 12****.5 credit**

This course is designed to allow students to explore the philosophical purpose of government as well as studying the principles of democracy. Furthermore, students will have the opportunity to explore individual rights' and liberties as well as the criminal justice system. Students will be able to learn how to become an active participant in all levels of the American political system. This course is designed for any student who has an interest in not only government but the legal profession as well. Class used to meet state civic requirement for graduation.

U.S. HISTORY I - 3011**12****.5 credit**

This course, taught chronologically, focuses on an analysis of important concepts, events, and people in the American experience during the period from Post Reconstruction through World War I. The student uses the historical method to examine the social, political, and economic forces that shaped the United States.

*This course is for students who have not taken U.S. History or have not met the History requirement for graduation.

U.S. HISTORY II - 3012**12****.5 credit**

This course, taught chronologically, focuses on an analysis of important concepts, events, and people in the American experience during the period from the 1920's to the present. The student uses the historical method to examine the social, political, and economic forces that shaped the United States.

*This course is for students who have not taken U.S. History or have not met the History requirement for graduation.