

SOCIAL STUDIES

Challenges facing the United States civic institutions, economy, and educational system include low voter participation, demands for a workforce with 21st century skills, and students who are unprepared for the rigor of college work. Restoring the fundamental role of Social Studies in education and re-envisioning the teaching and learning of Social Studies can directly ameliorate these challenges.

Powerful Social Studies instruction not only readies students for college and careers in an increasingly competitive world but prepares our students to be active and engaged citizens in a local and global context. Thus, teaching Social Studies can directly contribute to the revitalization and functioning of American democracy.

Social Studies directly equips students with the foundational knowledge and skills that are necessary to understand and ask important questions in a rapidly changing world. Social Studies can inspire the minds and hearts of young citizens to deeply engage in their local, state, national, and global communities as agents of change. In this way, Social Studies supports the moral imperative of our schools to prepare educated and engaged citizens, which is at the heart of a healthy democracy.

In a world in which postsecondary education is increasingly linked to social mobility, Social Studies empowers young people with the understandings, dispositions, and critical thinking skills that lead to success in college and career. Moreover, Social Studies readies students for today's workplace, where foundational problem-solving, communication and collaboration skills, and autonomy and intellectual flexibility are all necessary in order to excel.

(From the New York State Framework for Social Studies, 2014)

New York State Seal of Civic Readiness

Students who have attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset, and civic experiences. This distinction shows the student's understanding of a commitment to participatory government, civic responsibility and civic values.

Global History and Geography

In Grades 9 and 10 Social Studies, students will examine Global History and Geography. The two-year sequence is arranged chronologically beginning with the Paleolithic Era and continuing through the present.

GLOBAL HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY I (2202)
40 weeks - 1 credit

Open to Grade 9
Local Exam

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9 begins with the Paleolithic Era and the development of the first civilizations, continues with an examination of classical societies, and traces the expansion of trade networks and their global impact through the year 1750. The course emphasizes the key themes of interactions over time, shifts in political power, and the role of belief systems. Reading, Writing, Literacy, Stimulus Response, Inquiry, and a focus on the Enduring Issues of Social Studies make up the focus of the coursework.

GLOBAL HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY II (2212)
40 weeks – 1 credit

Open to Grade 10
Regents Exam

Prerequisite: Global History & Geography I credit earned

Global History and Geography II: Building Literacy and Analytical Skills Through History: Grade 10 Global History and Geography II offers a comprehensive journey through the pivotal events and themes of world history, beginning with the early 1700s and a snapshot of the world around 1750, and continuing chronologically to the present day. Key themes such as industrialization, nationalism, imperialism, conflict, technological advancements, and global interconnectedness are interwoven throughout the curriculum.

This course places a strong emphasis on developing literacy skills and the critical analysis of historical documents and sources. Students will engage in reading, writing, and evaluating diverse materials to strengthen their ability to interpret evidence, form reasoned arguments and understand multiple perspectives on historical events.

A significant component of the course is exploring Enduring Issues as outlined by the NY Framework for Social Studies. Students will investigate recurring challenges and questions that societies have faced across time and analyze how these issues have shaped our interconnected world. Thematic approaches are used in the final units to help students synthesize their understanding of these enduring issues.

In addition to mastering historical content, students will practice essential social studies skills, including historical and spatial thinking, contextualization, and comparison, as well as all the social studies practices and standards. The course culminates in the required State Comprehensive Exam, which assesses students' knowledge, skills, and ability to critically engage with historical sources. Through this course, students will not only gain a deeper understanding of the past but also hone skills that will prepare them for success in academic and informed citizenship.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT WORLD HISTORY (2204)

40 weeks – 1 credit

Open to Grade 10

Regents & AP Exams

Prerequisite: Global History & Geography I with at least a 90 average credit earned or Teacher Recommendation

AP World History is a college level course that focuses on developing students' abilities to think conceptually about world history from approximately 1100CE to the present and apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past. Five themes of equal importance — focusing on the environment, cultures, state-building, economic systems, and social structures — provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. AP World History encompasses the history of the five major geographical regions of the globe: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, with special focus on historical developments and processes that cross multiple regions.

AP World History is an upper-level history course designed to utilize many tools of historical study. Nightly reading and writing assignments with a heavy emphasis on historical analysis are the expectation, and multiple formative and summative assessments are also a standard of the course. **All students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

The AP World History Exam is required to be given to all students completing AP World History 10 at the conclusion of the 10th grade year. Completion of AP World History and passing the NY State Regents Exam in Global History and Geography fulfills the NY State requirements of Global History and Geography II.

U.S. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT 11R (2222)

40 weeks - 1 credit

Open to Grade 11

Regents Exam

This is a broad survey class of America's history and development. The course begins with the colonial and constitutional foundations of the United States and explores the government structure and functions provided in the Constitution. The development of the nation and the political, social, and economic factors that led to the challenges our nation faced in the Civil War are addressed. Industrialization, urbanization, and the accompanying problems are examined, along with America's emergence as a world power, the two world wars of the 20th century, and the Cold War. Students explore the expansion of the federal government, evolving social beliefs and behaviors, and the nation's place in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world. Throughout the year, students will be challenged to connect America's past to present-day debates and situation. A State comprehensive exam is given at the end of this course. This exam must be passed to be eligible for a Regents Diploma. To prepare for that exam, students will spend a significant amount of time in class engaged in document analysis activities, making claims and supporting those claims with evidence – both orally and in writing.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY (2251)

40 weeks – 1 credit

Open to Grades 11, 12

Regents & AP Exams

Suggested Prerequisites:

- **An 85+ average in Global History & Geography II**
- **An 85+ on the Global History & Geography Regents Exam**
- **Teacher Recommendation from a Global 10 teacher and Academic Advisement**

AP United States History is an introductory college-level course in U. S. History. The course explores major developments in U.S. History, beginning with an exploration of life in North America before the arrival of Europeans, and ending with a discussion of issues in present-day America. The course is designed to contribute to the development of the student's ability to think clearly and to express viewpoints, both orally and in writing, with clarity, logic and historical depth. Therefore, it will require more reading, writing, analysis and discussion than the Regents U.S. course. While the format includes instructor lectures, the emphasis is on the analysis, and interpretation of documents, events, and long-term historical developments and debates. The course is designed for the student who is deeply interested in the history and development of the United States of America.

This course can be taken in place of the required U.S. History & Government 11R course. All students are required to take the AP exam in May and the U.S. History Regents Exam in June.

THE ECONOMICS of FREE ENTERPRISE in a GLOBAL ECONOMY (2243)

20 weeks – 1/2 credit

Open to Grade 12

(Grade 11 if space is available)

Required course for graduation

“The Economics of Free Enterprise in a Global Economy” examines the principles of the United States free market economy in a global context. Students will examine their individual responsibility for managing their personal finances in a global economy. Students will analyze the role of supply and demand in determining the prices individuals and businesses face in the product and factor markets, and the global nature of these markets. Students will study changes to the workforce in the United States and the role of entrepreneurs in our economy, as well as the impact of globalization. Students will explore the challenges facing the United States free market economy in a global environment and various policy-making opportunities available to government, and the central bank, to address these challenges. Content specifications are not included so that the course can adapt to present local, national and global circumstances, allowing teachers to select flexibly from current events to illuminate key ideas and conceptual understandings.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT MACROECONOMICS (2241)

40 weeks - 1 credit

Open to Grade 12
AP Exam

Suggested Prerequisites:

- **An 85+ average in U.S. History**
- **Teacher Recommendation and Academic Advisement**

Enrollment in this course fulfills the NY State graduation requirement for Economics.

AP Macroeconomics is an introductory college-level course that focuses on the principles that apply to an economic system. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination; it also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. **All students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

GOVERNMENT AND CIVICS (2240)

20 weeks - 1/2 credit

Open to Grade 12
(Grade 11 if space is available, spring semester only)

Required course for graduation

This course examines the foundations of our American democracy, calling attention to the importance of voting and other methods of participation in government and civic life. In order to equip students to navigate in the digital age, the importance of information and the need to be able to access and evaluate information should be integrated throughout the course. All levels of government are encompassed within the course affording the opportunity to utilize local resources. Each unit provides an opportunity for comparison of our governmental system with that of other countries. Content specifications are not included so that the course can adapt to present local, national and global circumstances, allowing teachers to select flexibly from current events to illuminate key ideas and conceptual understandings.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (2249)

40 weeks – 1 credit

Open to Grade 12
AP Exam

Suggested Prerequisites:

- **An 85+ average in U.S. History**
- **A minimum of an 85% on the U.S. History Regents exam**
- **Teacher Recommendation and Academic Advisement**

This course is designed to give the above average social studies student a critical perspective on government and politics in the United States today. It will provide an in-depth study of the powers of Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, and the Federal Courts. It will examine the functions, structures, and philosophies of certain other types of government and of American political parties. Its major objective will be to provide the student with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory American or comparative government and politics courses.

This course can be taken in lieu of the required Government and Civics course. It **does not**, however, satisfy the Economics requirement. **All students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY (2248)

40 weeks - 1 credit

Open to Grades 11, 12
AP Exam

Suggested Prerequisites:

- **An 85+ average in U.S. History**
- **Teacher Recommendation and Academic Advisement**

The AP Psychology course is designed to allow high school students interested in the subject to pursue college-level studies while still attending high school.

Students are expected to leave the course with a college-level understanding of various approaches to psychology, types of research, facets of human behavior and cognition, and the treatment of various disorders.

Topics covered in the course include:

Biological Basis of Behavior
Cognition
Development and Learning

Social Psychology and Personality
Mental and Physical Health

The final exam is composed of 75 multiple-choice questions and two essay questions, designed to measure the student's analytical, organizational, and writing skills. **All students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

PSYCHOLOGY (2247)

20 weeks - 1/2 credit

*Open to Grade 12
(Grade 11 if space is available)
(Grade 10 with teacher permission)*

When the interest of man turns toward the actions of human beings, and when the interest takes the form of accurate observation, exact descriptions, and experiments studying human behavior, the science of Psychology emerges.

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. During the semester, human development from birth to death, the personality and normal and abnormal adjustment are examined. Both historical and current psychological theories are used to investigate these topics and students are required to write critical analyses.

HISTORY OF WAR (2255)

20 weeks - 1/2 credit

Open to Grades 11, 12

History of War teaches you: 1.) To think more strategically about the world and your life decisions. By examining the policy, strategies, operations and tactics of war, the classics of strategic theory, and the application of those strategic analytic skills, across a range of historical case studies, students will gain a better understanding of today's strategy and policy in our 21st century world. 2.) To expose the students to a knowledge that warfare has spurred the growth of essential new technologies, demanded the adoption of complex economic systems, shaped ideology and culture, spread religion, and promoted art and literature. 3.) To develop an understanding of what makes a war just or not. 4.) To apply the lessons learned to your own individual decision-making matrix.

BUFFALO & WESTERN NEW YORK HISTORY (2257)

20 weeks - 1/2 credit

*Open to Grades 11, 12
Offered Spring semester only*

This course will provide the participant with a broad spectrum of knowledge about the significance of Buffalo and Western New York and the role it has played in our nation's history. As the terminus of the Erie Canal, it was once the gateway to western settlement. With its growth and development as a major rail center it was soon a commercial engine for the economic growth of the United States. Students will gain a greater understanding of the factors that made Buffalo and the Niagara Frontier a leading commercial center. We will look at some of the reasons for Buffalo's economic decline and prospects for Buffalo's renaissance. A field trip to downtown Buffalo and other points on the Niagara Frontier is planned as part of this course. At the conclusion of the course, it is hoped that class participants will have a greater understanding of our history, greater pride as residents of the Niagara Frontier and cause for optimism about our future.

SOCIOLOGY (2246)

20 weeks - 1/2 credit

Open to Grades 11, 12

Sociology: Exploring Society and Ourselves. Are you curious about what shapes human behavior and society? Sociology is a dynamic elective designed for high school juniors and seniors who want to dive deep into the forces that mold us as individuals and communities. In this course, you'll explore essential topics like culture, socialization, group dynamics, social class, deviance, and the powerful role of social institutions.

Through engaging, project-based learning and collaboration, you'll not only study social behavior but also actively participate in analyzing and understanding it. Expect to work both in and out of the classroom, leveraging technology and real-world experiences to investigate how values, beliefs, and historical events influence who we are and how we interact.

This is your chance to uncover the "why" behind human behavior and gain tools to think critically about the world around you. Whether you're interested in understanding social issues, preparing for future studies, or just learning more about yourself, Sociology will challenge and inspire you to see the world in a new way.

HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS (2245)

20 weeks – 1/2 credit

Open to Grades 11,12

Genocides occur in stages. Once you learn these stages, genocide fits a pattern that becomes impossible to not recognize. This course sets out to expose students to the issues associated with the concept of Genocide and create the awareness to be Upstanders. We will explore the issues that create, perpetrate, and facilitate genocide through multiple approaches including; history, sociology, psychology, political science, and economics. This class utilizes the numerous social studies and history skills you have developed throughout your academic development. The historical causes and examples of antisemitism through the rise of the Nazi party being the catalyst of the Holocaust will be explored. If you have an interest in the Holocaust or in genocide in general this class will ensure you understand all the nuance surrounding this topic. The class concludes with studying other modern genocides using the recognizable stages discussed

CIVIL DISCOURSE (2239) *NEW

20 weeks – 1/2 credit

Open to Grade 12
(Grade 11 with Teacher Recommendation)

Suggested Prerequisites:

- **An 85+ average in U.S. History**
- **Teacher Recommendation and Academic Advisement**

Students can expect to learn the basic skills of *critical thinking and listening, argumentation skills, rhetoric, and practicing respectful communication*. These skills are essential in an ever-diverse world, where polarizing topics are pervasive. The course content will cover the *difference between civil discourse and debate, the role of evidence and facts, cognitive biases, the 1st Amendment, and techniques for finding common ground*.

Objectives:

- Define and understand the principles of civil discourse.
- Learn to distinguish between civil discourse and debate.
- Develop active and empathetic listening skills.
- Analyze and evaluate arguments and counterarguments.
- Improve public speaking, writing, and presentation skills.
- Practice respectful communication in various contexts, including written, oral, and electronic.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY (2253)

40 weeks- 1 credit

Open to Grade 12
AP Exam

The AP European History course is equivalent to an introductory college level course that provides what history teachers, professors and researchers have identified as the main goal of a college level modern European history survey course: learning to analyze and interpret historical evidence to achieve understanding of major developments in European History. *

Students practice the thinking skills used by historians by studying primary and secondary source evidence, analyzing a wide array of historical evidence and perspectives, and expressing historical arguments in writing. The course focuses on topics in modern European history from the mid-15th century through the 21st century.

The AP European History course is heavily dependent on seminar style classes, with strong involvement and participation from class members. **All students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

*Taken from the AP European Course Framework, College Board. Collegeboard.org