Social Studies *Electives* 2026-2027

AP Macroeconomics & AP Microeconomics are each year-long AP courses that can be taken in any order or at the same time. Each counts as both an Occupational Ed. Credit AND as the required Social Studies elective. You can expect an average of about 20 minutes of homework each night, no textbook readings or essays; it's a fairly relaxed AP course. No matter what you do in life, you'll use Economics.

AP Psychology is a year-long AP course that is both challenging and fun. Topics covered will be learning (and how to learn better), memory (and how to improve it), the brain (including your brain on drugs), optical illusions, the unconscious (sleep and dreams), mental disorders and their treatments, personality, emotions and stress (and how to deal with them), and more. This course will also earn you FREE college credit through EWU. It meets the required Social Studies elective in a supportive setting that fits any type of learner. Everything in your life is Psychology, come explore it.

AP US Government and Politics is a year-long AP course that satisfies the Civics graduation requirement. If you are interested in current events, politics, law, government, this is a great class for you. You will study the foundations and structure of our government, the Constitution, civil liberties & civil rights, Supreme Court cases, media, voting/ elections, political beliefs & parties and more. There are no pre-requisites and AP Gov is open to all juniors and seniors, as well as motivated sophomores.

AP US History (APUSH) is a year-long course that surveys the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the United States from the colonial period through the present. This course provides an overview of US history and instills students with the academic skills required of a serious student of history. APUSH is an introductory college level course that presumes that the student is prepared to take their educational responsibilities seriously and perform accordingly.

Criminology is a one semester course that presents a general overview of crime and punishment in the United States. We will examine the major theoretical explanations for crime, as well as how theories and our understanding of criminal behavior shape our responses to crime and criminals.

Ethnic Studies is a one semester course that is not about "sitting and getting" information about the experiences and perspectives of People of Color; it's about making a difference in our community by exploring identity, examining power, engaging collectively, and encouraging possibilities. Through the J.O.Y. (Justice-Oriented Youth) Lab, students will get to design projects that transform knowledge into action.

History of Sports in America is a one semester course that explores the role of sports in American life. It looks at America's social and cultural history exploring issues such as race, class, gender, foreign policy, nationalism, religion, social protest, economics, industrialization, and urbanization as they relate to sports.

Psychology is a one semester course that focuses on the most stimulating subjects in Psychology. Four units will be presented: Learning, the Brain, Consciousness (Drugs, Sleep and Dreams), and Social Psychology (Infamous experiments such as Stanford Prison Experiment, Milgram Obedience experiment, etc.) TED Talks, intriguing documentaries, full-length movies will be incorporated including guest speakers for the Dreams and Drugs unit. Students are expected to engage in discussions and write reflections as needed.

Sociology is a one semester course that introduces the study of social interrelationships and human group organization. We will discuss how society shapes our understanding of the world and examine the major theoretical explanations of social interaction and social systems.

WWII Through Film and Literature is a one semester course that is designed to introduce students to the impact that World War II (1939-1945) had and continues to have on the society and culture of several European nations. As the last of the generation that lived during the war passes on, society will persist in raising questions about the reasons and effects of this political failure. The class will feature cinematic adventures from multiple perspectives and countries.

SQHS Social Studies Flow Chart				
9th Grade:		**World History** *or* **AP Human Geography**		
10th/11th Grade:		**US History** *or* **APUSH**	*and*	**Electives:**
				AP Macroeconomics
				AP Microeconomics
				AP Psychology
				AP US Government
				Criminology
				Ethnic Studies
				History of Sports in America
				Psychology
				Sociology
				WWII Film/Lit
12th Grade:		**Civics** *or* **AP US Gov**	*and*	**Electives:**
				AP Macroeconomics
				AP Microeconomics
				AP Psychology
				Criminology
				Ethnic Studies
				History of Sports in America
				Psychology
				Sociology
				WWII Film/Lit
Remember:				
Social Studies Electives also serve as General Electives (and they're cool!)				
Want to know more or have questions about a course?** ***Come talk with us!				
Mr. Bergman	**D205**	**Jason.Bergman@bellinghamschools.org**		
Ms. Ericksen	**D203**	**Tasha.Ericksen@bellinghamschools.org**		
Mr. Hannigan	**D101**	**Tyler.Hannigan@BellinghamSchools.org**		
Mr. Mayers	**D201**	**Gabriel.Mayers@bellinghamschools.org**		
Mr. Richardson	**D202**	**Reed.Richardson@bellinghamschools.org**		
Mr. Settem	**D105**	**Stephen.Settem@bellinghamschools.org**		

SQHS Social Studies Department

These are Social Studies Classes you can take next year:

→**Pay Attention** **to the Social Studies Class Slides (because they're pretty cool).**



SQHS Social Studies Department

These are Social Studies Classes you can take next year:

→Get out your phones and take a picture of Class Slides that look interesting



SQHS Social Studies Department

These are Social Studies Classes you can take next year:

→Later this week, look at those pictures to remember what classes to choose.





AP Macro & AP Micro



Each is a YEAR LONG college prep class **Counts as CTE AND Social Studies elective**

Average Homework: **20 min. a night; Multiple choice practice problems**

Concepts clearly apply to real life – No Matter what you do in life, you'll use Economics

No essays! No paragraphs, no thesis sentences

GREAT FIRST AP Class, or Great ADDITIONAL AP class

- **Won't add much more work to your AP load**



MACROECONOMICS **or** **MICROECONOMICS?**

The U.S. Economy **The business world**
The World Economy **The environment**



MACRO might be a better intro to Economics than MICRO . . .

. . . But take what your friends are taking



AP Psychology: Take it, you will *love* it!

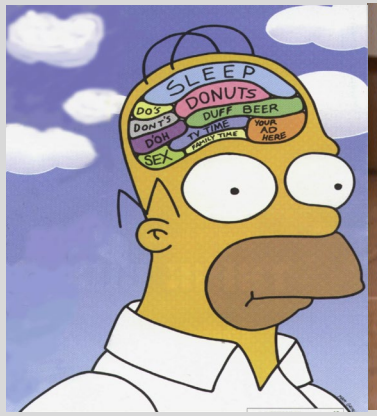
→**Tests: Curved** & Test **Corrections**
→**Extra Credit** is <u>available</u> for every Unit
→**Work is spaced out** over each Unit
→<u>**Laugh/smile**</u> at least once a day!

→**FREE College Credit from EWU** (just for passing the class)
→**85% students** got **A or B in class last semester**
→**Homework:** Completion earns <u>**Automatic Points**</u>
→**Learn** <u>**cool stuff**</u> (that you will use, talk/think about daily)

<u>What *kind* of COOL stuff</u>?

-Drunk (Distortion) Goggles
-Optical Illusions
-Memory Tricks & Improvement
-Mental Disorders & Treatment
-Learn How to Train your Dog/Cat/Dragon
-Discover What You're Looking For in Mate

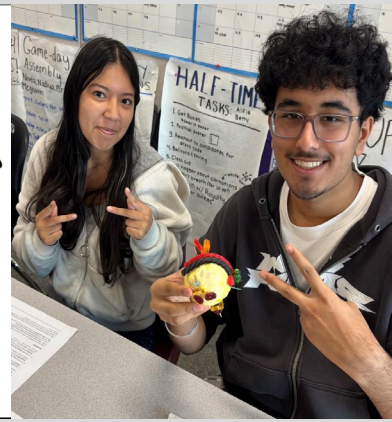
-Candy Brain Lab
-Rorschach Tests
-Drugs
-Dream Diagnosis
-Watch Cool Movies
-*and* More!!!













To take

AP U.S. Government !

Interested in law, government, politics?

- **Year-long course fulfills Civics grad requirement**
- **Open to 10th-12th graders**
- **Relevant, current, engaging topics –**

  Know your rights and get engaged: Elections, Civil Liberties/ Civil Rights, Branches of Gov, Constitution

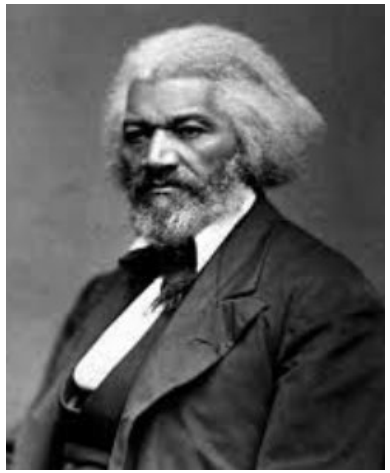




APUSH!



AP US History is a year-long course. This course provides an overview of US history and instills students with the academic skills required of a serious student of history.







- **M**otivated to learn
- **A**ctively learning
- **D**edicated to excellence
- **E**xpanding skills and knowledge

Criminology – The Course

The study of Crime….an uncomfortable topic!!!

- **What is crime?**
- **The criminal justice system**
- **Prisons and punishment**
- **Serial Killers**
- **White collar crime**
- **Organized crime**
- **Drugs and Crime**



The class:

- **No Homework**
- **No Tests**
- **Interesting Content**
- **You will learn a lot!**

History of Sports in America

What happens in this class?

- Learn about American history by analyzing sporting events!
- Miracle on ice – Cold War
- Boys in the Boat – Great Depression
- Jackie Robinson – Civil Rights Movement
- Billy Jean King – Women's Rights Movement





The class:

- No Homework
- No Tests
- Interesting Content
- You will learn a lot!
- Have fun learning about History!!!

PSYCHOLOGY

- ONE SEMESTER COURSE
- INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR
-
- 4 UNITS OF STUDY:
- HOW HUMANS LEARN
- THE BRAIN
- CONSCIOUSNESS: DREAMS AND DRUGS
- SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY WITH FOCUS ON
- MAJOR EXPERIMENTS

- GUEST SPEAKERS – TED TALKS – MOVIES
- EMPHASIS ON DISCUSSION AND SHARING OF IDEAS

- INSTRUCTOR: MR. GABRIEL MAYERS



Sociology – The Course

Sociology is the study of human social relationships and institutions:

Culture

Social Interactions

Gender

Institutionalization

Religion

Education

Much More!

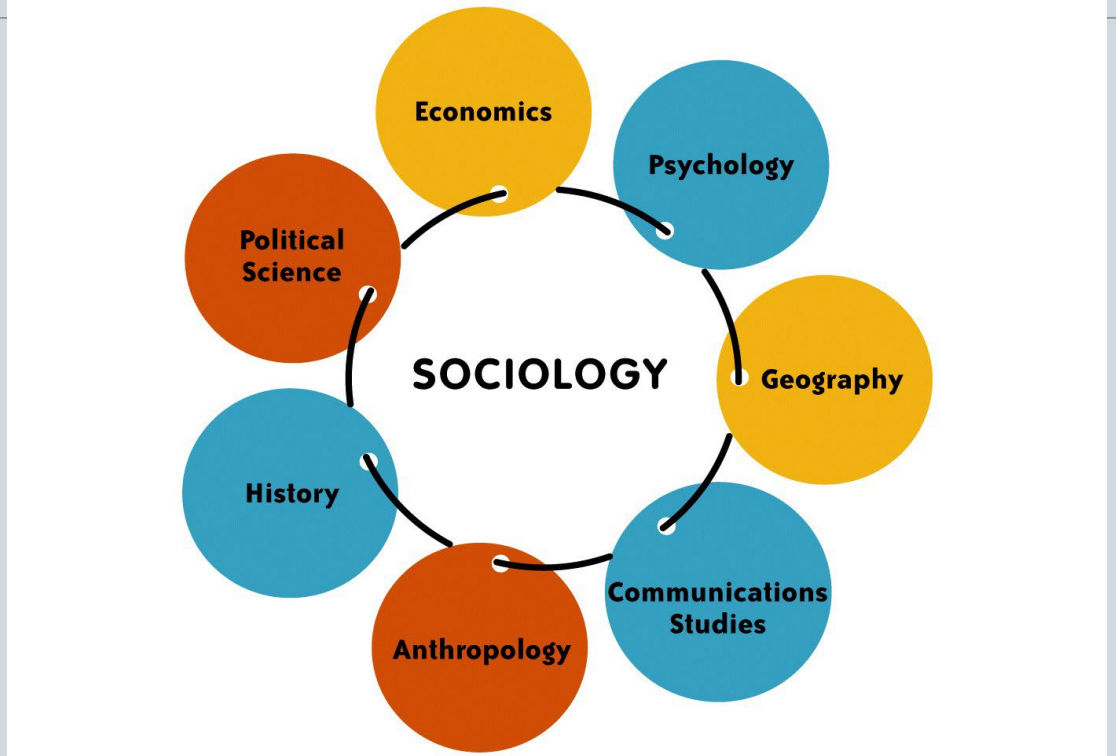


Figure 1.1

The Real World

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The class:

- **No Homework**
- **No Tests**
- **Interesting Content**
- **You will learn a lot!**

WWII Film & Literature

- **Experience history like you're *in* it** – watch the most dramatic and unforgettable WWII films ever made.
- **Travel the world through cinema** – explore stories from the U.S., Europe, Asia, and beyond.
- **No boring textbook grind** – everything happens in class: *no homework, no tests, no stress*.
- **Become a critical viewer** – learn about camera angles, color, music, and storytelling to shape the way we understand history.
- **Uncover the *real people* behind the stories** – soldiers, civilians, resisters, victims, and leaders whose lives shaped the modern world.






Ethnic Studies

- Ethnic Studies is a class where we talk about the influence and intersections of race, culture, and society. Students work to understand how the history and creation of racial categories influence the world we live in.



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- AP Psychology
- AP US Government
- Criminology
- Ethnic Studies
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- Psychology
- Sociology
- WWII Film/Lit

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Electives:
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