

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies department is committed to fostering a learning environment that helps all our students succeed and prepares them for a successful future. Our department believes that each student deserves a learning experience that is culturally responsive, welcoming and affirming. We prioritize building strong relationships with each student, ensuring they feel seen, heard and valued. We place emphasis on the teaching of historical thinking skills: evaluating authenticity, credibility and bias of primary source documents, analyzing factual information and drawing conclusions, integrating concepts from a variety of disciplines and designing and carrying out research. Our approach to writing focuses on the process of analytic writing which empowers students to go beyond mere description of events, encouraging them to evaluate and interpret sources, analyze turning points, explore cause-and-effect relationships, and engage with essential questions about history. Our classrooms are places where all student voices are respected and elevated. Students engage in conversations with one another, listen to each other, become problem-solvers, ask questions, seek answers, respect the world in which they live and make others around them better. Social Studies is required for all four years of high school.

9TH GRADE - GLOBAL HISTORY 9

FULL YEAR - 1 CREDIT

In this one year history course, students will study major themes and events throughout World History from Early Humans to the European Encounter with the Americas. While reading and analyzing primary and secondary source material, students will learn to use historical thinking skills (contextualization, compare/contrast, cause/effect, continuity and change over time) to comprehend complex historical events with the overall goal of creating greater awareness of how past events have shaped the current state of the world. Students will also develop the necessary research and writing skills to produce informative and argumentative historical essays.

10TH GRADE - GLOBAL HISTORY 10

FULL YEAR - 1 CREDIT

Picking up chronologically where Global 9 ended, students will study major themes and events from 1750 to the recent past. Students will continue to read and analyze more complex primary and secondary source material further honing historical thinking skills worked on in 9th grade. Through simulations, research projects, debates, group work and other activities students will study how past events connect to the state of the world today and how the world is attempting to solve current world problems. Students will take the Global History Regents exam at the end of this course which covers only 10th grade material.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT WORLD HISTORY: MODERN

PREREQUISITE: GLOBAL HISTORY 9

FULL YEAR - 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 their relationship with the environment, cultural developments and interactions, systems of governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation. Students will engage with history through close reading of primary and secondary sources, historical analysis, and structured historical writing. Throughout the year they will practice college-level essay and short response skills, constructing arguments supported by relevant evidence and demonstrating mastery of the core AP Historical Reasoning Processes: Comparison, Causation, and Continuity and Change Over Time. Coursework will require consistent nightly reading and writing, independent study habits, and the ability to work with challenging college-level texts. Summer reading is required. The Advanced Placement World History: Modern exam is required at the end of the course. Students are also required to take the Regents Exam in Global History and Geography.

11TH GRADE - U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

FULL YEAR - 1 CREDIT

In United States History and Government, students will study American History from pre-Columbian America through the present day. By studying America's founding documents and other primary and secondary source material, students continue to hone the skills historians use to make sense of the past. Students will study the development of American democracy, the American economic system and the relationship among groups of people in this "nation of immigrants". The increasingly important role of the United States in world affairs will also be examined. The government component of this course will focus on the growth of the federal government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and the role of the courts in our society. Students will take the US History Regents exam at the end of this course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

FULL YEAR - 1 CREDIT

Students may opt to enroll in this course designed to be a college level learning experience in preparation for the AP exam taken in May. The course focuses on further developing historical thinking skills necessary to interpret college-level primary and secondary source material, write critical essays, prepare for debates and engage in historical simulations. Students will also complete a detailed research project. Topics of study include the Americas before Columbus, society and culture in colonial America, the creation of and development of the early American government and economy. In addition, students study how this democracy was tested during the Civil War and Reconstruction and how society and the economy changed through the Gilded Age, Progressive Era and Great Depression. American foreign policy of the 20th century from WWI through the Cold War will also be studied.

ORIGINAL CIVIC RESEARCH AND ACTION (OCRA)

Original Civic Research and Action (OCRA) is a four-year program that begins with a before-school elective in the freshmen year. OCRA helps students become civic entrepreneurs by guiding them as they identify needs in their community and, in turn, develop and implement community-based civic action projects with the assistance of local mentors/experts. Students who are looking to be part of the OCRA program must complete the first year of OCRA as ninth graders. Students will determine pressing needs and/or issues impacting their local community. With the guidance of community mentors, participants will develop an action plan to be implemented during their final years in high school. Students attend the first year of OCRA before school at 7:00 A.M. from late October to May. During the class, students working in groups will conduct a deep community study, examine local case studies, partake in stakeholders' forums, as well as publicly present and reflect on their community study. Freshmen who complete all class requirements are eligible to enroll in the second year of OCRA in grade ten.

Please note that students can participate in only one of these research classes - OSR or OCRA.



Francesca Espino



Michelle Ramos Deleon

Twelfth Grade Full Year Courses 1 Credit**ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY**

Students may opt to enroll in AP European, a full-year college level course designed to prepare students for the AP exam in May. Through research, lectures, discussion, group work and other activities, students will study the history of western civilization from 1350 to 2000. Units of study include the Late Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Age of Absolutism, the Age of Reason and the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era. In addition, students study the Revolutions of 1848, Nationalism and its Effects, the World Wars and Post-War Europe (1945-2000).

ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Students may opt to enroll in this course, a full-year college level course designed to prepare students for the AP exam in May. Through the use of group work, simulations, lectures, debates and other activities, students will study in detail the inner workings of the U.S. Government. The course content consists of the essential political knowledge that will be synthesized in the construction of enduring understandings and big ideas about American government and politics. The big ideas that connect the content in the course units include: Constitutional-ism; Liberty and Order; Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy; Competing Policy-Making Interests; and Methods of Political Analysis. Units will include the constitutional underpinnings of American democracy, federalism, separation of powers, Congress, the Presidency, the federal judiciary, political parties, political beliefs, mass media, interest groups, civil rights and civil liberties.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT MACROECONOMICS

Students may opt to enroll in AP Macroeconomics, a full-year college level course designed to prepare students for the AP Macro exam in May. Through problem solving, simulations, seminars, group work, case studies, debates, and various other activities, students will complete a survey course in macroeconomic theory. AP Macroeconomics gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the economy as a whole. The course places emphasis on measurements of the economy and fiscal and monetary stabilization policies. Recognizing the global nature of economics, students will also examine the impact of international trade and will debate various macroeconomic schools of thought on how to best stimulate economic growth. Students are required to participate in a unit long trial on the 2008 Recession and compete in a grade wide competition, the Fed Challenge.

Twelfth Grade - Half Year Courses 1/2 Credit

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY PROJECT ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY

THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF SELF AND SOCIETY: INTRO
TO SOCIOLOGY (3 COLLEGE CREDITS - \$330.00)

This course introduces students to the discipline of Sociology. It is a skills-based course that utilizes primary and secondary source materials drawn from recent professional social science journals and books. Students will examine the Sociological perspective and Social Research methods; Culture, Groups, and Social Structure; Self and Identity; Social Inequalities: Race, Class, and Gender; and Social Change. It is a writing intensive class with a research paper, synthesis papers, and short summaries of readings. Movies and documentaries are used throughout the course to reinforce some of the major themes.



Ben Macey



Sigal Cutler

CURRENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT & LAW

Participation in government and in our communities is fundamental to the success of American democracy. Using local, national and international current issues as a starting point, students will make connections to the various ways citizens engage in civic activity. With a solid background in the fundamentals of American democracy -- including the rights and responsibilities of citizens and their role in shaping public policy -- this course encourages students to become active leaders in their school and community. Their enhanced understanding of legal and legislative institutions will also prepare them to begin their lives as active citizens.

ECONOMICS AND PERSONAL FINANCE

Economics and Personal Finance is an introductory course designed to provide seniors with the foundational skills to begin making sound economic and financial decisions in our quickly changing world. The focus of the class is on everyday economic choices students will soon be forced to make as independent adults and consumers/producers in their communities. Units of study include choosing careers, preparing for job/college interviews, banking, credit cards, savings, investing, taxes and budgeting. Activities involving real life situations will invite students to examine what their future individual responsibilities will be to manage their own personal finances and economic well-being.