

Social Sciences Department Curriculum Overview

9th Grade

Required

World Geography, or
World Geography – Hnrs.

Electives

None

10th Grade

Required

Intro to World History; or
World History; or

World History - Honors

Electives

None

11th Grade

Required

US History; or
US History - Honors; or
AP US History

Electives

Constitutional Law Studies
Criminal and Civil Law Studies
Intro. to Crim. Justice
Psychology
Psychology – Honors
AP Psychology

12th Grade

Required

Economics, or
Economics – Honors, or
AP Economics
Amer Gov; or
Amer Gov –Hnrs, or
AP Amer Government

Electives

Psychology *or* Psych. H, or
AP Psychology
Intro. to Crim. Justice
Constitutional Law
Criminal & Civil Law
American Mosaic

Course Descriptions (Courses listed by grade level)

World Geography * **Phase 2** * **SUS/FBF** * **2103300** **[Semester]**

This semester course will provide students with a basic knowledge of the continents and the major physical characteristics and bodies of water in or around each land mass. Each region will be studied using location, the human and physical characteristics of each place, the movement of people and ideas throughout the globe, and the interactions that occur between humans and the environment.

Co-requisite: English I

World Geography Honors * **Phase 3** * **SUS/FBF** * **2103300** **[Semester]**

This semester course will provide students with knowledge of the earth's continents and the major physical characteristics and bodies of water in or around each land mass. Each region will be studied using location, the human and physical characteristics of each place, the movement of people and ideas throughout the globe. Emphasis will be placed on current local issues and local global problems as they relate to the regions being covered.

Co-requisite: English I Honors

Introduction to World History * **Phase 1** * **SUS/FBF** * **2109310** **[Year]**

This course creates an understanding of the world in all its relationships. Understanding of political, economic, and social developments as well as the growth of world cultures, religions, education and art is emphasized. The course will begin with the roots of civilization and build to the emergence of modern nations and the ideas that come from revolution. An understanding of a new world order is examined through advances in communication, transportation, and weaponry.

Co-requisite: English I

World History * **Phase 2** * **SUS/FBF** * **2109310** **[Year]**

This course traces the development of Western Civilization's economic, social, and political institutions. Beginning with prehistoric man, the course examines the roots of civilization, the achievements of the classical world, and the reasons for the disintegration of the Roman Empire. The course also describes the gradual rebuilding of the Middle Ages, the material and intellectual changes resulting from the Renaissance and the Age of Enlightenment. Causes and consequences of the democratic revolutions are explored; the forces



of industrialization, nationalism and imperialism are evaluated. The rise of fascism, WW II, and the post war era are analyzed with emphasis on future implications.

Co-requisite: English II

World History - Honors * **Phase 3** * **SUS/FBF** * **2109320** [Year]

This course incorporates the basic goals of World History while examining in greater depth the cultural and political evolution of the eras studied. Original source readings are used to supplement the student's background. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking skills through class discussions and paper assignments.

Co-requisite: English II - Honors

US History * **Phase 2** * **SUS/FBF** * **2100310** [Year]

The purpose of this survey course is to help the student understand the factors and characteristics that have shaped our national character and destiny. This course follows the history of our country from the colonial era through contemporary times, examining the political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural events that have affected the birth and growth of our country. The material presented is intended to give the student an appreciation and understanding of our complex society.

Co-requisite: English III

US History - Honors * **Phase 3** * **SUS/FBF** * **2100320** [Year]

The aim of this survey history of the United States is to provoke students to analyze the factors and events that have helped shape our country. Students are provided the necessary information obtained from different historical perspectives through the textbook, lectures, and different primary sources found in the readers. Critical analysis and cultural relativism will be used in understanding how past decisions have influenced contemporary American society. Also available for Dual Enrollment credit.

Prerequisite: B or better in English II or B- or better in English II - Honors and A- or better in World History or B or better in World History - Honors and cumulative average of 3.67 or better

AP U.S. History * **Phase 4** * **SUS/FBF** * **2100330** [Year]

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the chronological development of the American people by examining the political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural events that shaped our nation. Emphasis will be placed on the development of analytical skills in students so that they can critically evaluate the various issues and events in the development of the United States. This is done by focusing on persistent themes and change in history and by applying historical reasoning to seek solutions to contemporary problems. Content will be determined by topics presented by the AP examination in May; students are **required** to take the exam. Fee required for the AP exam. Also available for Dual Enrollment credit.

Prerequisite: A- or better in World History - Honors or A or better in World History and cumulative average of 4.25 (A) or better and B+ or better in English II - Honors or A or better in English II. **The student must take the AP test at the end of the year. Fee is set by the College Board.**

American Government * **Phase 2** * **SUS/FBF** * **2106310** [Semester]

This semester course will provide the student with a basic understanding of how our government is organized, how it works, and the responsibilities of those in government. Upon completion of the course, students should not only be more informed about the nature and workings of the US government, but also more skilled in thinking systematically and critically, and more concerned and willing to participate in the civic affairs of their government.

Pre-requisite: US History

American Government - Honors * **Phase 3** * **SUS/FBF** * **2106320** [Semester]

This semester course will provide students with a thorough understanding of our nation's system of government. It will instill in students the qualities of good citizenship that will enable them to put their knowledge into action and an appreciation for the contemporary issues that face our nation. Upon completion of the course, students will be more skilled in thinking systematically and critically, and more concerned and willing to participate in the civic affairs of their government.

Pre-requisite: A or better in US History or B or better in US History Hnrs. or AP US History and a cumulative average of 3.67 or better.



AP American Government * **Phase 4** * **SUS/FBF** * **2106320** [Semester]

The course provides a thorough understanding of our nation's system of government. Students will acquire a critical perspective of our political system, while learning general concepts used to interpret American politics and analyze specific case studies. Students will also become familiar with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute the American political perspective.

Pre-requisite: A- or better in AP U.S. History, or A or better in U.S. History Hnrs., and a cumulative average of 4.25 or better. **The student must take the AP test at the end of the year. Fee is set by the College Board.**

Economics * **Phase 2** * **SUS/FBF** * **2102310** [Semester]

The purpose of this course is to acquire an understanding of the way in which society organizes its limited resources to satisfy unlimited wants. Students will be introduced to the major characteristics of the mixed market economic system in the United States and how the basic economic questions are answered. The intent is to provide the students with an understanding of the forces of the marketplace by examining the effect of their roles as producers, consumers, savers, investors, resource owners, voters, and taxpayers in the system.

Prerequisite: US History

Economics - Honors * **Phase 3** * **SUS/FBF** * **2102320** [Semester]

The purpose of this course is to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the way in which society organizes its limited resources to satisfy unlimited wants. The course will also deal with the distinguishing characteristics of other types of economic systems. Particular attention will be given to the American mixed economic system. The intent is to provide students with tools to examine and analyze the implications of market solutions and public policy decisions related to economic problems.

Prerequisite: A or better in US History or B or better in US History - Honors or AP US History and cumulative average of 3.67 or better

AP Economics (Macroeconomics) * **Phase 4** * **SUS/FBF** * **2102310** [Semester]

An AP Economics course focusing on macroeconomics provides a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Such a course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and also develops familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics.

Prerequisites: A- or better in AP U.S. History, or A or better in U.S. History Hnrs, and a cumulative average of 4.25 or better. **The student must take the AP test at the end of the year. Fee is set by the College Board.**

The following courses are electives. They do not satisfy any graduation requirements in social studies.

American Mosaic * **Phase 3** * **SUS/FBF** * **2104610** [Semester]

Contemporary United States Social and Cultural History

The course examines the development of American society from 1900 to the present, with particular emphasis on social and cultural history. Concentration will focus on a decade-by-decade study of such topics as entertainment, food, music, art, radio, television, movies, fads, and fashion. In addition to the text, supplementary materials will be used: books, magazines, internet sources, and videos/DVDs. Students will be exposed to a broad range of historical information, thereby providing an in-depth understanding and appreciation of American life in the 20th and 21st Centuries.

Prerequisite: Senior standing with a cumulative average of 3.5 or better

Constitutional Law Studies * **Phase 2** * **SUS/FBF** * **2106330** [Semester]

This course focuses on students' rights as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. Freedom of speech, the press, religion, and due process of law including the right to a fair trial are highlighted. A close look at the Watergate scandal dramatizes the importance of preserving these rights. Actual Supreme Court cases are applied to course topics in order to give students a true appreciation of how our legal system works with respect to civil liberties.

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing



Criminal and Civil Law Studies * Phase 2 * SUS/FBF * 2106350 [Semester]

Students will come to appreciate the basics of criminal law including trial procedure as well as defenses in the court room today. Students will also be exposed to relevant topics in the areas of consumer and family law that will have practical applications in their everyday lives as young citizens. Specific areas of study will include contracts, warranties, credit, default practices, marriage, family-problem issues, wills and inheritance.

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing

Introduction to Criminal Justice * Phase 3 * SUS/FBF * 2106380 [Semester]

The purpose of this course is for students to develop an appreciation of America's legal system as the foundation of American society. Students will examine the American legal system and the nature and importance of specific rights granted under the United States Constitution. The nature and causes of crime will also be presented along with an examination of the various categories of crime. The course is available for college credit.

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing with a cumulative average of 3.5 or better.

Psychology * Phase 2 * SUS/FBF * 2107300/2107310 [Year]

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunities to acquire an understanding of human behavior, behavioral interaction and the progressive development of individuals. This goal is achieved through the study of various types of interpersonal relationships. Emphasis is placed upon the development of communication skills and methods of arriving at alternatives in solving everyday problems. This course involves a great deal of student input and participation.

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing

Psychology - Honors * Phase 3 * SUS/FBF * 2107300/2107310 [Year]

The objective of this course is to provide opportunities for students to expand their awareness of areas of psychology. This goal is achieved through the study of the theories of personality development, motivation and emotion, and other areas of psychological research. Emphasis is placed on the many parallels that can be drawn between our biological and psychological reactions to everyday occurrences. Comparisons are made between healthy personality development and abnormal development.

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing and cumulative average of 3.5 or better

AP Psychology * Phase 4 * SUS/FBF * 2107350 [Year]

The course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing and cumulative average of 4.25 (A) or better. **The student must take the AP test at the end of the year. Fee is set by the College Board.**

