

UPPER SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Social Studies Notes:

- *4.0 Credits of Social Studies are required for Graduation.*
- *As a minimum, all students must complete World History II, US History, Economics, and Government.*
- *1.0 credits of Social Studies must be taken each year of enrollment in the Upper School.*
- *Students may enroll in two Social Studies courses in grades 9/10/11/12 in which case one course will count as an elective.*
- *All full year (1.0 credit) Social Studies courses require summer reading/assignments.*

World History II (1.0 credits)

This course is designed for freshmen students and completes the study of world history beginning with the Gunpowder Empires through present day. The study of current events and their relationship to past events is an integral part of the course.

Prerequisite: World History I (grade 8)

Textbook: World History: Patterns of Interactions (ISBN 9780547491127) *

**Note: this is the same text that is used in Grade 8 World History I*

Advanced Placement World History (1.0 credits)

This college-level survey course is designed for advanced freshmen students. In this course, students will participate in a rigorous course curriculum designed to encourage and challenge historical thinking. Students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, continuity, and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout in order to make connections among historical developments in times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, technology, and innovation.

Prerequisite: World History I (grade 8)

AP World History Course Enrollment Standards: Freshmen students must meet four of the five criteria for consideration:

1. Teacher Recommendation
2. Semester 1 Exam Grade: A- or better
3. Semester 1 Final Grade: A or better
4. DBQ (Writing Essay): 4/6 on PreAP rubric
5. PreACT and/or ERB Reading Score in the 60th percentile or higher

Textbook: Strayer and Nelson, Ways of the World (Fifth Edition), 2023: ISBN: 978-1319409302

U.S. History (1.0 Credits)

This course is designed for sophomore students and surveys America's colonial period to contemporary times. Students are expected to acquire an in-depth knowledge of the major political, social, cultural, economic, and diplomatic themes of American history. Through the study of current events, students gain an understanding of the relevance of the past to their daily

lives. Analytical skills are emphasized.

Prerequisite: World History I and World History II

Textbook: No textbook required as resources are provided from various sources.

Advanced Placement U.S. History (1.0 Credits)

This college-level survey course is designed for advanced Sophomore students. It covers American history from the earliest known records to the present, with special attention to social and political trends, themes, and movements. Extensive reading, including assigned summer reading, and weekly written assignments are required. Class discussion and debate are essential; analytical skills, therefore, are stressed. Tests modeled after the AP test are administered regularly, and review sessions are scheduled as needed, particularly during the second semester.

Prerequisite: Advanced Placement European History or Advanced Placement World History

Advanced Placement U.S. History Course Enrollment Standards: Students coming from a previous AP course must meet the following standards:

1. Teacher Recommendation
2. 80% first semester average

Textbook: Kennedy and Cohen, *The American Pageant*, AP Edition, 16th edition, ISBN: 978-1305075917

Advanced Placement European History (1.0 Credits)

AP European History is an introductory college-level European history course. Students cultivate their understanding of European history through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like interaction of Europe and the world; economic and commercial developments; cultural and intellectual developments; states and other institutions of power; social organization and development; national and European identity; and technological and scientific innovation. Extensive reading, including assigned summer reading, and weekly written assignments are required. Class discussion and debate are essential; analytical skills, therefore, are stressed. Tests modeled after the AP test are administered regularly, and review sessions are scheduled as needed, particularly during the second semester.

Prerequisite: World History I, World History II, or Advanced Placement World History

Advanced Placement European History Course Enrollment Standards: Students must meet the following requirements, depending upon previous Social Studies course:

- Students coming from a previous AP class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation
 2. 80% first semester average
- Students coming from a College Preparatory class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation (History/English)
 2. 87% first semester average
 3. PreACT Reading score of 60th percentile or higher

Textbook: *Western Civilizations 10th Edition* by Jackson J. Spielvogel ISBN: 978-1305952843

Psychology (0.5 Credits)

This elective introduces students to the study of human behavior and mental processes. Students are challenged to relate psychological concepts to their own lives and to evaluate various methods of research and famous psychology experiments. Topics include the biological basis of behavior, learning, consciousness, personality, and psychological disorders and therapies.

Prerequisite: World History II, AP World History, U.S. History or AP US History

Textbook: Understanding Psychology, ISBN: 9780076631940

Sociology (0.5 Credits)

This elective illustrates how the groups, or social structures, that one belongs to have a profound influence on the way you think, feel, and act. While psychology focuses on individual behavior, sociology focuses on the behavior of groups. Major themes include culture and subcultures, inequalities of gender and age, race and ethnicity, social institutions like family and marriage, government and politics, social change through social movements, and unique social issues surrounding the 21st century and technology. Most topics will be explored through viewing films/documentaries and applying core concepts to them.

Prerequisite: World History II, AP World History, U.S. History or AP US History

Textbook: Free online PDF - <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-2e>

Topics in History Honors (0.5 Credits)

This semester-long honors course takes a deep dive into topics and moments of historical significance. Students are required to do research and demonstrate higher order thinking skills.

Prerequisite: World History II, AP World History, U.S. History or AP US History

Topics in History Honors Course Enrollment Standards:

Students must meet the following requirements, depending upon previous Social Studies course:

- Students coming from a previous AP class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation
 2. 80% first semester average

- Students coming from a CP or Honors class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation (History/English)
 2. 87% first semester average

Textbook: none required

Alabama History Honors (0.5 Credits)

This semester-long honors course surveys the development of the state of Alabama from its early days to present time. Students are required to do research and demonstrate higher order thinking skills.

Prerequisite: World History II, AP World History

Alabama History Honors Enrollment Requirements:

Students must meet the following requirements, depending upon previous Social Studies course:

- Students coming from a previous AP class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation
 2. 80% first semester average

- Students coming from a CP or Honors class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation (History/English)
 2. 87% first semester average

Textbook: none required

Advanced Placement Psychology (1.0 Credits)

The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

Prerequisite: World History II, AP World History, U.S. History or AP US History

AP Psychology Course Enrollment Standards:

Students must meet the following requirements, depending upon previous Social Studies course:

- Students coming from a previous AP class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation
 2. 80% first semester average

- Students coming from a CP or Honors class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation (History/English)
 2. 87% first semester average

Textbook: *Myers' Psychology for the AP Course* by David G. Myers and C. Nathan DeWall. Fourth Edition. ISBN:9781319281168

American Government (0.5 Credits)

American Government is a semester-long course designed for high school upperclassmen. This course builds upon the foundation established through American History courses and focuses on the origins, structure, and functions of government across all levels in the United States. Students of this course will engage in the analysis of primary source documents, speeches, court cases, and relevant political commentaries.

Prerequisite: U.S. History or Advanced Placement U.S. History

Textbook: None

Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics (0.5 Credits)

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. 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 behavior. 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.

Textbook: American Government: Roots and Reform - 2016 Presidential Election AP Edition by Karen O'Connor and Larry J. Sabato ISBN: 978-0134611648

Prerequisite: U.S. History or Advanced Placement U.S. History

Advanced Placement Government Course Enrollment Standards:

Students must meet the following requirements, depending upon previous Social Studies course:

- Students coming from a previous AP class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation
 2. 80% first semester average

- Students coming from a CP or Honors class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation (History/English)
 2. 87% first semester average

Economics (0.5 Credits)

Economics is a semester-long course designed for Senior students. Students will examine how and why economic systems operate the way they do from the perspectives of individuals, businesses, and the government. Students of this course will engage in the analysis of economic models such as supply and demand, as well as current economic events, which will be helpful in making wise decisions as they fulfill their roles as consumers, workers, and citizens.

Prerequisite: Advanced Placement U.S. History or U.S. History

Textbook: None

Advanced Placement Microeconomics (0.5 Credits)

AP Microeconomics is a college-level course that introduces students to the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers. The course also develops students' familiarity with the operation of product and factor markets, distributions of income, market failure, and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. College Course Equivalent AP Microeconomics is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course in economics. There are no prerequisites for AP Microeconomics; however, students should be able to read a college-level textbook and possess basic mathematics and graphing skills. Because the class will be in the first semester and the AP examination is not completed until May, there will be required review sessions during the months of March, April and May in order to prepare for the exam.

Prerequisite: Advanced Placement U.S. History or U.S. History

Advanced Placement Microeconomics Course Enrollment Standards:

Students must meet the following requirements, depending upon previous Social Studies course:

- Students coming from a previous AP class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation
 2. 80% first semester average

- Students coming from a CP or Honors class:
 1. Teacher Recommendation (History/English)
 2. 87% first semester average

Textbook: Foundations of Economics, AP Edition, 8th Edition, (2018) ISBN: 9780134645582