

## UPPER SCHOOL COURSES

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PLEASE NOTE that there is required summer reading in each history class.

#### ***World History II (1.0 credits)***

This course completes the study of world history beginning with the Gunpowder Empires through the present. The study of current events is an integral part of the course.

Prerequisite: WH I

Text: World History: Patterns of Interactions (ISBN 9780547491127) \*Note - same book that is currently used in grade 8

#### ***U.S. History (1.0 Credits)***

This course 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: WH I and WH II

Text: No text as resources are pulled from various sources.

#### ***Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. History***

This college-level survey course is geared specifically toward the Advanced Placement United States History Test. 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. (US AP)

Text: Kennedy and Cohen, The American Pageant, AP Edition, 16th edition 978-1-305-07591-7

#### ***American Government (0.5 Credits)***

This semester course examines in depth the current American political system on the local and national level. Attention is directed to the study of the Constitution and the respective branches of government. Essay writing and critical thinking skills are broadened.

Textbook: no textbook

***Advanced Placement (AP) 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. Because the class will be 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.

Textbook: American Government: Myths and Realities (2016 election edition). Oxford University Press.

***Economics (0.5 Credits)***

Usually paired with U.S. Government, this course introduces the various economic systems and theories with an in-depth analysis of America's free enterprise system. It provides the students a broad introduction to the study of microeconomics with an emphasis on contemporary problems and consumer economics.

Textbook: no textbook

***Advanced Placement (AP) Macroeconomics (0.5 Credits)***

AP Macroeconomics is a fast-paced, college-level course that focuses on the decision making of individuals, businesses, and the government. Students will study a variety of economic theories and analyze their practical application in the real world. This semester course focuses on the economy as a whole, including economic measures, economic growth, fiscal policy, monetary policy, and international economics. Students are required to take the AP Macroeconomics in May. This class will prepare you for college. It will also give you the opportunity to earn 3 university credits if you make a 3 or higher on the AP exam. Extensive math skills are not required; however, the ability to analyze graphs and charts is essential.

Textbook: Principles of Macroeconomics for AP Courses from OpenStax, ISBN 1938168968, [www.openstax.org/details/principles-macroeconomics-ap-courses](http://www.openstax.org/details/principles-macroeconomics-ap-courses)

***Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology (1.0 Credits)***

This advanced college level survey course for juniors and seniors 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. Topics include sensation and perception, learning, consciousness, abnormal and social psychology.

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

Third Edition. ISBN #978-1319070502

***Advanced Placement Human Geography: (1.0 credit)***

Human Geography is designed to prepare students for geographic analysis. To be more geoliterate, students will study charts and maps to figure out why people choose to live in certain areas and how they modify those areas to make them into a useful home. Using problem-solving and decision-making skills, they will analyze the following geographic themes: population and migration, urban and rural land use, religion, language, architecture, political and economic development, and globalization. Students will take the AP exam in May for college credit.

Text: *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography* by James M. Rubenstein. 11th edition. ISBN # 978-0134206233

***History through Film and Literature Honors: (0.5 Credits)***

This semester course will examine important people, places, and events in World History by looking at accounts of them as they appear in literature and film. We will look at historical accounts, newspaper articles, short stories, poems, and novels, some fictional and some not, to glean an understanding of time and place. We will also look at film treatments, some documentaries, some newscasts, and some feature films, to get an appreciation of people, places, and events. Time will be spent exploring the voyages of Christopher Columbus, the sinking of the Titanic, the American Civil War, the Holocaust, and so much more.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

Text: Students may be required to purchase specialized materials for individual projects.

***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 biological basis of behavior, learning, consciousness, personality, and psychological disorders and therapies.

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, family and marriage, government and politics, and unique social issues surrounding the 21st century and technology.

Textbook: Free online PDF version -

<https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-sociology-2e>