

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

“Not to know what happened before you were born is always to be a child”
MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

Year	Required Courses	Electives (Semester courses)
9 th Grade		Contemporary Issues Street Law World Geography
10 th Grade	World History <i>or</i> Honors World History <i>or</i> AP European History	Contemporary Issues Philosophy Psychology Street Law World Geography
11 th Grade	United States History <i>or</i> Honors United States History <i>or</i> AP United States History	
12 th Grade	U S Government and Politics (Fall) and Economics and Personal Finance (Spring) <i>or</i> AP United States Government and Politics (Full Year)	

WORLD HISTORY

SS 611 Full Year 1 credit Q.P. 4

World History provides a conceptual approach to the story of human civilization as well as the knowledge and skills for later study in the social studies program. Students will examine patterns of change and continuity across time and space. A theme of this course will be the interaction of European Civilizations with those of Africa, Asia and the Americas. The analysis and interpretation of a variety of primary sources is an essential component of the course.

PREREQUISITE: None

HONORS WORLD HISTORY

SS 612 Full Year 1 credit Q.P. 5

Honors World History provides a conceptual approach to the story of human civilization as well as the knowledge and skills for later study in the social studies program. Students will examine patterns of change and continuity across time and space. A theme of this course will be the interaction of European Civilizations with those of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. The analysis and interpretation of a variety of primary sources is an essential component of the course. *The Honors course differs from the academic course in that honors students will be required to expand their knowledge of concepts and themes with additional research, writing, and presentations.*

PREREQUISITE: Departmental recommendation

ADVANCED PLACEMENT® EUROPEAN HISTORY

SS 613 **Full Year** **1 credit** **Q.P. 6**

Advanced Placement European History is a college-level survey covering the events and movements that occurred in Europe from the mid-fifteenth century to the present day. Students will gain an understanding of the social, economic, intellectual, cultural, political and diplomatic events that have shaped modern Europe. Emphasis will be placed on independent student learning through extensive reading, research, and writing. A substantial amount of time outside of class will be required to successfully complete the requirements of the course. The student is required to take the AP European History examination.

PREREQUISITES: Departmental recommendation

UNITED STATES HISTORY

SS 621 **Full Year** **1 credit** **Q.P. 4**

United States History is a survey course of the history of the United States. The student will learn about the nation's history from pre-Columbian civilizations to the present day. Topics will include the political, social, and economic events that have shaped America. The analysis and interpretation of a variety of primary sources is an essential component of the course.

PREREQUISITE: World History

HONORS U.S. HISTORY

SS 622 **Full Year** **1 credit** **Q.P. 5**

Honors U.S. History is a survey course of the history of the United States. The student will learn about the nation's history from pre-Columbian civilizations to the present day. Topics will include the political, social, and economic events that have shaped the nation's history. Students will also analyze and interpret varied primary sources. Independent reading, research and writing are an essential component of the course. *The Honors course differs from the academic course in that honors students will be required to expand their knowledge of concepts and themes with additional research, writing, and presentations.*

PREREQUISITES: World History, World Literature, and departmental recommendation

ADVANCED PLACEMENT® U.S. HISTORY

SS 623 **Full Year** **1 credit** **Q.P. 6**

Advanced Placement United States History is a college-level survey of the history of the United States from pre-Columbian times to the present day. The student will gain an understanding of the social, economic, intellectual and political currents that have shaped the nation's history. Emphasis is placed on independent student learning through extensive reading, research, and writing. A substantial amount of time outside of class will be required to successfully complete the requirements of the course. The student is required to take the AP United States History exam.

PREREQUISITES: World or AP European History, World Literature, and departmental recommendation

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SS 630 1st Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

This semester course will give students a basic understanding of the formal and informal relationships that govern the nation. Topics will include the three branches of government, the role of interests groups, and the election process. The course will have a special focus on the role of citizens in the American republic.

PREREQUISITE: None

ADVANCED PLACEMENT® U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

SS 633 Full Year 1 credit Q.P. 6

AP United States Government and Politics is the equivalent of an introductory college course in American Government. The course is designed to provide students with an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It explores the political theory and everyday practices that direct the daily operation of our government and shape our public policies. AP U.S. Government and Politics is designed to meet two goals: to achieve success on the AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam and to provide students with the knowledge necessary to become informed and active citizens in our American government system.

PREREQUISITES: United States History (any level) and departmental recommendation

PHILOSOPHY – Not Offered in 2011-2012

SS 640 Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

This semester course introduces the study of philosophy to students. The most significant thinkers and their ideas will be talked about. Students will read, discuss, and write about the origins of philosophy, the major themes of philosophy, and how those themes have evolved over the span of human history. Themes will include ethics, religious and political philosophy, and search for life's meaning. Excerpts from major philosophical treatise will be the source material for this course of study.

PREREQUISITE: Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

SS 641 Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

This course gives students the opportunity to examine major political and social issues and raise awareness of current national and world events. Using reliable and up-to-date journalistic sources from the Internet, students will identify and analyze issues and events that affect their own lives and the world in which they live. Topics include the environment, medicine and healthcare, world religious and political conflict, national and global economic development, economic disparity, United States foreign policy, scientific ethics and breakthroughs, and the role of the United States in the global community. Research, writing and oral presentation skills will be used and developed in this course.

PREREQUISITE: None

ECONOMICS AND PERSONAL FINANCE

SS 642 2nd Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

This semester course in economics will introduce students to the concepts of the capitalist system as well as issues related to personal finance. Students will examine both microeconomic and macroeconomic principles. Topics will also include credit, insurance, savings, and investment.

PREREQUISITE: Open to seniors only

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

SS 643 Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

This semester course will cover the physical and human geography of planet Earth. Students will use the five themes of geography: place, location, region, movement and human-environment interaction, to gain a more thorough understanding of the planet and the people who inhabit it.

PREREQUISITE: None

STREET LAW

SS 644 Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

This course will introduce students to the American legal system. Discussions will center on legal procedures for both criminal and civil courts; including types of crimes, trials, and sentencing. The course will also examine consumer and family law as well as individual rights and liberties.

PREREQUISITE: None

PSYCHOLOGY

SS 645 Semester 1/2 credit Q.P. 4

This semester course will investigate the foundations of psychology and the relevance of each of its theories to the world today. The course will cover such topics as the biological bases of behavior; sensation and perception; states of consciousness; learning; memory; cognition and language; intelligence and mental abilities; motivation and emotion; life span development; personality; stress and health psychology; psychological disorders; and therapies with an emphasis on the schools of thought of Behaviorism, Freudianism, Cognitive Psychology, and Humanism. Career options in the field of psychology will also be discussed.

PREREQUISITE: Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors