

# ***SOCIAL STUDIES***

<b>Course Offerings</b>	<b>Gr. 9</b>	<b>Gr. 10</b>	<b>Gr. 11</b>	<b>Gr. 12</b>	<b>Grading Level</b>
World History	X				I
Advanced World History	X				II
Honors World History	X				III
US History I		X			I
Advanced US History I		X			II
Honors US History I		X			III
US History II			X		I
Advanced US History II			X		II
Honors US History II			X		III
AP US History **			X	X	III
Honors Economics		X	X	X	III
Sociology			X	X	II
AP US Government & Politics**			X	X	III
Contemporary America				X	II
Intro. to Psychology				X	II
AP Psychology**				X	III

***All courses are designed to meet the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies. AP courses are designed to meet the College Board Standards.***

***\*\*Summer Assignments are required***

### ***World History***

Length: Year  
Grade Level: 9

Credits: 5

World History is a full-year survey course designed for ninth grade students. Its focus is the diverse social, economic, and political concepts resulting from the interaction of cultural groups. Specific historical periods will be studied, beginning with the key events and effects of the Renaissance. The themes of the course will include continuity and change, geography and history, religions and value systems, technology, art, and literature. The goal of the course is to help students understand how the complex world came to be and the course of events that led to current concerns and issues affecting the world today.

### ***Advanced World History***

Length: Year  
Grade Level: 9

Credits: 5

**Prerequisites:** Prior academic achievement in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies

The content and time periods examined are the same as described in World History, but the instructional pace is more rigorous and is designed to prepare students for Advanced United States History I and II.

### ***Honors World History***

Length: Year  
Grade Level: 9

Credits: 5

**Prerequisites:** Prior academic achievement in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies

The content and time periods examined are the same as described in World History and Advanced World History, but the instructional pace is more rigorous and is designed to prepare students for Honors United States History I, II and AP United States History as a junior or senior year elective.

### ***United States History I***

Length: Year  
Grade Level: 10

Credits: 5

**Prerequisite:** World History

This course is a survey of United States history from the Post-Revolutionary War to World War I. Special emphasis will be placed on the growth of the United States, the various cultural groups, and their impact on the development of the United States. This course, the advanced course or the Honors course is required of all students.

### ***Advanced United States History I***

Length: Year  
Grade Level: 10

Credits: 5

**Prerequisites:** Advanced World History or prior achievement in World History

The content and time periods examined are the same as described in United States History I, but the instructional pace is more rigorous and is designed to prepare students for Advanced United States History II. This course is for students of high academic ability, emphasizing concepts and trends, as well as facts. Challenging assignments are designed to develop writing and reading skills in preparation for college.

### ***Honors United States History I***

Length: Year  
Grade Level: 10

Credits: 5

**Prerequisites:** Honors World History or prior achievement in Advanced World History

The content and time periods examined are the same as described in United States History I, but the instructional pace is more rigorous and is designed to prepare students for Honors United State History II. This course is for students of high academic ability, emphasizing concepts and trends, as well as facts. Challenging assignments are designed to develop writing and reading skills in preparation for college.

### ***United States History II***

Length: Year  
Grade Level: 11

Credits: 5

**Prerequisite:** US History I

This course is a survey of United States History in the twentieth and twenty-first century beginning with the post-World War I era to the present day. The development of the United States as a world power and the rapid changes in American society will be emphasized.

### ***Advanced United States History II***

Length: Year  
Grade Level: 11

Credits: 5

**Prerequisites:** Advanced US History I or prior achievement in US History I

The content and time periods examined are the same as described in United States History II, but the instructional pace is more rigorous and is designed to better prepare students for college. This course is for students of high academic ability, emphasizing concepts and trends, as well as facts. Challenging assignments are designed to develop writing and reading skills.

### ***Honors United States History II***

Length: Year Credits: 5  
Grade Level: 11

**Prerequisites: Honors US History I or prior achievement in Advanced US History I**

The content and time periods examined are the same as described in Advanced United States History II, but the instructional pace is more rigorous and is designed to better prepare students for college. This course is for students of high academic ability, emphasizing concepts and trends, as well as facts. Challenging assignments are designed to develop writing and reading skills.

### ***\*AP United States History***

Length: Year Credits: 5  
Grade Level: 11, 12

**Prerequisites: Prior achievement in Honors Social Studies**

United States History, AP is an elective course offered to juniors and seniors with superior academic ability and a genuine interest in history. This course will include independent study, extensive outside reading, research, writing, and seminar discussions as course requirements. Additionally, this course will offer students the opportunity to earn college credit and replace the US II requirement for juniors. Enrollment in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade English Honors or AP is also strongly advised because of the rigorous nature of the course and the need for superior reading comprehension. All students will be encouraged to take the AP exam in May.

***\*Students in Grade 11 may select AP US History to replace their Honors US History II requirement for graduation. This course may also be taken as an elective in grade 12.***

### ***Honors Economics***

Length: Year Credits: 5  
Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

**Prerequisite: Prior achievement in Honors Social Studies**

This challenging honors academic elective, meets the NJ state requirement for Personal Financial Literacy. It is designed for college bound students who are planning for such majors as business, economics, accounting, finance, math, advertising, marketing, history, law, political science or education, as well as those who aspire to be the owner/operator of their own business or non-profit organization. The instructional pace is rigorous and students will be expected to have a strong background in independent reading and analysis, note-taking, research and writing, study skills and work ethic. Honors Economics will require daily attention outside of class to financial current events from financial news sources such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Market Place Radio Report*, *the Economist Magazine* and the nightly financial news updates. There will be a strong emphasis on 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, including

problem solving, group presentations, discussion, debate and critical thinking. The course will provide instruction in the principles of economic analysis and institutions with regard to their impact on financial markets, and issues of public policy. Economic concepts will be applied to real-world situations. Topics of study will include current economic conditions, monetary and fiscal policy, cost/benefit analysis, supply and demand, the role of labor, business and government in our economy and global trade.

### ***Sociology***

Length: Year Credits: 5  
Grade Level: 11, 12

This course will provide students with an introduction to the content, methods, and theory of the social science of sociology. It will provide students with broad knowledge, skills, and background desirable for future careers in law, social work, social research, advertising, journalism, industrial management, education, psychology, and political science. Students will learn the structure and evolution of culture along with analysis of culture's effects on individual personality development, the socialization process, their formation and how they interact. It will address an analysis of current social topics including changing family structures, stages of social development, the criminal justice system, racial, ethnic and gender roles, the role of the media, and other current issues facing today's citizens.

### ***AP US Government & Politics***

Length: Year

Credits: 5

Grade Level: 11, 12

**Prerequisites: Prior achievement in Honors Social Studies**

This course will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret United States politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute United States politics. Topics include constitutional underpinnings, political parties, interest groups, and mass media; institutions of national government; public policy; civil rights and civil liberties.

This course will offer students the opportunity to earn college credit. Owing to the fast paced nature of the course, a superior reading comprehension level is needed. Enrollment in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade Honors English or AP is also strongly advised. All students will be encouraged to take the AP exam in May.

### ***Contemporary America***

Length: Year

Credits: 5

Grade Level: 12

**Prerequisites: US History I and US History II**

The core of this course is contemporary American History beginning with the end of the Vietnam War and Watergate to present. Emphasis is placed on political movements, leaders, legal issues, foreign affairs, national and international conflicts and their resolutions, and social issues such as ideas about rights and equality and the changing structures of gender, class, and race. World Geography is also applied to these areas with special attention given to the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. Current events are a component of this course through the use of various periodicals and online sources. Students will also debate the social issues that are currently being examined by our society.

The student who enrolls in this course will be expected to work at a college level. The class will move very quickly, requiring students to complete independent work. As a communications intensive subject, students will be expected to engage intensively with the material through frequent oral and written exercises. Students will sometimes be required to debate issues on an unbiased level that may conflict with personal beliefs. Students will also be required to discuss controversial and sometimes sensitive topics.

### ***Introduction to Psychology***

Length: Year

Credits: 5

Grade Level: 12

This course is an introduction to the study of social psychology. The purpose of this course will introduce students to the many fields of psychology, including diverse personality theories human behavior, human development, psychological disorders and therapies, etc. These topics will be analyzed and evaluated in order to better understand social interaction and behavior. An investigation of individuals with physical and psychological disabilities, with the hope of improving understanding and acceptance, will be conducted. In addition, the course will incorporate and emphasize current psychological research and its contribution to the various fields of psychology. Self-esteem activities and social skills development will be the emphasis of this course.

### ***AP Psychology***

Length: Year

Credits: 5

Grades Level: 12

AP Psychology is an elective course offered to seniors who wish to complete a high school course that is equivalent to an introductory college course in Psychology. This 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 will be exposed to psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields within psychology. Students also will learn about ethical issues and research methodology that psychologists incorporate in their science and practice. Students will be provided with numerous opportunities to apply psychological concepts, theories, and methods to real-life situation, as well as in student-created and designed experiments. Students interested in this course should have a strong academic background in English and/or History. Students will be expected to accept the rigorous academic challenges of an AP course by being highly motivated and dedicated to work well independently outside of the classroom. Students will be encouraged to take the AP exam in the spring.