

SOCIAL STUDIES

Global History and Geography

1 credit per year / 9-10

Global History is a two-year chronological, cross-cultural survey of history from the Paleolithic era to the present day. The course follows the curriculum written by the New York State Education Department. Students engage in a comparative study of the history, politics, economics, and cultures of different regions of the world. Social science techniques and concepts are emphasized to study the past and encourage critical thinking about the present and the future. The course also fosters the development of the writing and research skills necessary to discuss and explain global history. The purpose of this course is to analyze the connections between people and societies and to develop a sense of chronology that will provide students with a framework for organizing historical thought. There is a final at the end of ninth grade and a New York State Global History & Geography Regents examination at the end of tenth grade. The Regents examination is the culmination of ninth and tenth grade Global History & Geography.

US History and Government

1 credit / 11

U.S. History and Government follows a curriculum written by the New York State Education Department and culminates in the Regents Examination. The course begins with the colonial period and follows the development of the nation from its formation until the end of World War Two. Major topics include the American people, government and politics, foreign policy, and social studies skills. Skills emphasized include problem-solving, gathering and using primary and secondary source material, and critical thinking. Major writing assignments are required during the year. The course will conclude with a local examination.

Economics and Government

1 credit / 12

Economics and Government is divided into four quarters. The first two quarters are devoted completion of the US History curriculum, covering the US since 1945 and culminating in the US History and Government Regents exam in January. The third quarter will focus on economics, with units including basic concepts, economic theory, government and the economy, and globalization. During the fourth quarter, students in good standing will participate in the Senior Transition Project. Projects may involve a wide range of out-of-school or in-school activities and will include mentors in business, health-related fields, government, education, art, and other areas of work and learning. The project will require 35 hours of volunteer work with mentors, a written journal, and presentations to the class.

Advanced Placement US History**1 credit / 11**

Advanced Placement U.S. History is a college-level course designed to provide students with an in-depth study of U.S. History and prepare students for the Advanced Placement examination in May. Class time will be spent in seminar-style discussions, group work and lectures. The amount of work and the materials used are demanding, since the course includes a college text, secondary readings and frequent analysis of a variety of primary documents. The level of work is rigorous; it demands sophisticated writing, reading and note-taking skills. The weeks after the AP exam will be devoted to a final project.

Economics and Advanced Placement US Government**1 credit / 12**

This course will be divided such that the first marking period will be a basic study of economics, the second and third marking periods will be the Advanced Placement portion of the course, and the fourth marking period will consist of review, the AP exam, and the senior transition project. The AP portion of the course is intended to be the equivalent of the one-semester college introductory course in United States government and politics. Its six basic units are Constitutional underpinnings; political beliefs and behaviors; political parties, interest groups, and mass media; government institutions including Congress, the Presidency, bureaucracy, and the courts; public policy; and civil rights and civil liberties.

ELECTIVES**Criminal Justice****1/2 credit / 11-12**

Various aspects of the criminal justice system in America in general and New York in particular will be surveyed. From legal theory to actual practice, students may expect to gain knowledge of police structure and procedure, the courts and individual legal rights and responsibilities. Presentations by people working at different levels in the justice system are an important course component. A trip to a maximum security prison is a critical event in the study of the NY State correctional system. The culminating activity of the class will be an in-depth field investigation of an actual crime.

Women in American History**1/2 credit / 11-12**

Enjoy U.S. history but want to know more? Wondering what women were doing while men were fighting in wars, becoming “captains of industry,” and working in government? This course will focus on the contributions women made to the formation of the United States through the abolitionist movement, the suffrage movement, the world wars and the modern era. We will also compare expectations for males and females today with those from previous eras.

World War II and Vietnam**1/2 credit / 11-12**

World War II and the Vietnam War were two very different experiences for the American public. The first revolutionized our society while the second almost tore it apart. Yet both have left an indelible mark. This course will focus on World War II and Vietnam through the lens of the literature, movies, and music that they produced. We will look at the reasons for these wars, the strategies used by the military, propaganda, experiences of individuals and how these events influence our lives today. We will also compare aspects of both wars to the current war on terror.

Psychology**1/2 Credit / 11-12**

Psychology is the study of human behavior. Though the emphasis is on preparation for life situations, the course will include a measure of college-level psychology coverage. Units on emotions, learning, group behavior, child development, psychological characteristics of various stages of life (adolescence, young adulthood, old age), personality development, mental illness and mental health will be integrated with studies of various theories and approaches (schools) of psychology, therapies and career possibilities in the mental health field. Students will be asked to relate their own feelings, experiences and observations to psychology as a field of study. Case studies through reading, writing and films will illustrate various topics in psychology.

Introduction to Law/Mock Trial**1/2 credit / 10-12**

How do minors become emancipated? Can you really get 12 CDs for 99¢? Do you love watching Court TV? This course explores all of these issues as well as the Constitutional basis for our legal system. In addition, students will learn legal research, writing, and trial advocacy skills and have the opportunity to "make their case" in front of a jury. Participating on the Mock Trial team is a required and integral part of this course, which involves out of school preparation and competition.

Political Perspectives**1/2 credit/ 11-12**

This course is for those students who wish they could spend all their time in social studies discussing what is happening in the world here and now. We will take our direction from the news of the day and work together to cut through the often confusing news coverage of events. Our focus will be on learning how to distinguish facts from opinion and analysis from hype. Using a variety of sources, including traditional media and speakers, students will learn to form an opinion based on careful examination of the issues. They will also learn how to argue persuasively in a debate format. Issues to be explored will include the death penalty, immigration, drug policy, abortion, health care reform, Indian Point, gun control, gay marriage, the Middle East conflict, the "war on terrorism," and emerging issues.

Personal and Business Finance**1/2 credit/ 11-12**

How do I choose a career? Should I care if my clothes come from Vietnam? An understanding of business and financial issues has become essential for a complete understanding of our world today. This course will focus on the larger world of business and finance, as well as personal financial goals. In the first half of the class, we will explore financial topics in the news. This will include an examination of the causes and consequences of the recent financial crisis. Other possible topics include globalization and its consequences for consumers. In the second half of the class, students will be given the opportunity to practice financial decision-making on a personal level. Students will complete a budget project where they explore the decisions involved in choosing a career, buying a car or a home and paying taxes. Also, students will learn about the world of investing through the Stock Market Game. By combining the study of personal and global financial issues, students come away with the ability to understand what is in the news and to make good decisions for their personal lives based on that knowledge.

Advanced Placement Psychology**1 credit / 11-12**

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. It covers psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology, including research methods, neuropsychology, perception, states of consciousness, cognition, personality and abnormal psychology. The course is intended to be the equivalent of a one semester college introductory course and culminates with a required AP exam.

Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics**1 credit / 11-12**

This course is designed to help students develop an understanding of some of the world's diverse political structures and practices. It encompasses the study of the general concepts used to interpret the political relationships and institutions found in virtually all national politics as well as specific countries. The required AP exam will cover Great Britain, China, the USSR/Russia, Iran, Mexico, and Nigeria. It is an excellent opportunity for in-depth study of comparative world history from 1945 to the present.

Advanced Placement Criteria

Advanced Placement U.S. History

Students will be required to acquire a total of 12 points from the following criteria to be admitted into AP American History.

Global 1 and 2 Course Grades (calculated separately):

A+	4 points
A	3 points
A-	2 points
B+	1 points

Note: Second year grades are mid-year averages.

Global I Final Exam Score:

98 and over	4 points
95-97	3 points
92-94	2 points
89-91	1 point

Entrance Assessment (scale of 1 to 9):

Excellent	8 - 9 points
Good	6 - 7 points
Average	5 points
Poor:	2 - 4 points
Unacceptable	0 - 1 point

Department recommendation: Points awarded on a 0-3 scale

Advanced Placement Comparative Politics and Advanced Placement Government

Students will be required to acquire a minimum of a B average in AP US History or a total of 12 points from the following criteria to be admitted into AP Comparative Politics or AP Government.

Global II and US History course grades (calculated separately)

A+	4 points
A	3 points
A-	2 points
B+	1 point

Global History Regents Exam score:

98 and over:	4 points
95 to 97:	3 points
92 to 94:	2 points
89 to 91:	1 point

Entrance assessment (scale of 1 to 9):

Excellent:	8 to 9 points
Good:	6 to 7 points
Average:	5 points
Poor:	2 to 4 points
Unacceptable:	0 to 1 point

Department Recommendation: Points awarded on a 0-3 scale.

Advanced Placement Psychology

Students will be required to acquire a minimum average of B in AP US History, B in AP Biology, or a total of 12 points from the following criteria to be admitted into AP Psychology.

Biology and Global II or US History course grades (calculated separately). If you are currently in taking one of these classes, your mid-year average will be used.

A+	4
A	3
A-	2
B+	1

If you took AP Biology, than the scale is as follows:

A+	5
A	4
A-	3
B+	2
B	1

Biology Regents exam score:

96 and over:	4 points
93-95:	3 points
90-92	2 points
88-91	1 point

Entrance Assessment (scale of 1 to 9):

Excellent:	8 to 9 points
Good:	6 to 7 points
Average:	5 points
Poor:	2 to 4 points
Unacceptable:	0 to 1 point

Social Studies Department Recommendation: Points awarded on 0-3 scale