

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, geography 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 grade skills and tenth grade skills and content in Global History & Geography.

US History and Government

1 credit / 11

U.S. History and Government is an intensive study of American history from the Columbian Era through 1945 and culminates in a local final exam. Major topics include the American people, government and politics, economics, 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, including both in-class essays and research based assignments.

Modern American History, Government and Economics

1 credit / 12

The first two quarters of senior year are devoted to the completion of the US History curriculum, covering the American history since 1945 and will culminate in the US History and Government Regents exam in January. Within the study of modern American history, students will complete several research-based projects and essays. The third and fourth quarters will focus on economics, with units including basic concepts, economic theory, government and the economy, globalization and personal finance.

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.

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, especially as it applies to modern American history. The second and third marking periods will be the Advanced Placement portion of the course, and the fourth marking period will finalize preparation for the examination. 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 credit / 11-12

Welcome to Criminal Justice! This year-long elective course follows a two-part sequence that provides an overview of the various elements of the American criminal justice system. Throughout the first semester, we will examine crime in America, the duties, policing, the constitutional rights of citizens, the roles and functions of various agencies and the processes involved in the administration of justice from various social and historical perspectives. In the second semester, we will examine our national and state court system, the trial process, legal defenses, criminal sentencing and corrections, the constitutional rights of citizens, the roles and functions of various agencies and the processes involved in the administration of justice from various social and historical perspectives.

Personal Financial Literacy

½ credit / 11-12

Welcome to the most important class you'll ever take! Personal financial literacy answers every question you've ever had about money, but were afraid to ask. While literacy rates in the U.S. have continued to soar, a whopping 66% of Americans are financially illiterate! The number one reason why Americans fail at their own finances is a lack of basic education. This course will give you the tools for your own financial success. Explore the methods people use when making important decisions in savings and investing. Dive into the basics of business, investments, banking, credit, and debt. Listen to popular podcasts like *Planet Money* and *Freakonomics*. View popular programs like *Shark Tank* and the *Profit*. Above all, the focus is you! How much student debt is too much? Is Venmo safe? Join our class to find out!

Sociology and Popular Culture

½ credit / 11-12

What do Colin Kaepernick, Gigi Hadid, *The Walking Dead*, and Chance the Rapper have in common? They are all part of popular culture. Popular culture is all around us, influencing how we think, how we feel, how we vote, how we live our lives in countless ways. The course will begin with an introduction to the study of sociology (the study of group psychology) and will use this as a lens to study recent American popular culture. We will explore the ways in which each of us is both a user of and is used by popular culture. This course will use your own expertise and experiences with media, music, internet, race, class and gender as a talking point for exploring the various roles played by popular culture in our lives.

Psychology

½ 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.

Political Perspectives and the Media

½ credit / 11-12

Why do you believe what you believe? What forces shape your perception of the world? Who controls the information? 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 Mass Media vs Social Media, Gun Control, Terrorism and Civil Liberties, Healthcare, Politics and Food, Politics and Sports, Wealth Inequality, Gender Inequality, Racism in America, Education Systems, Global Conflicts and other emerging issues.

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.