

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIAL STUDIES

U.S. History

9th Grade

Full Year

1 Credit

The study of United States history prepares students to take up the challenges of life in contemporary society. This full year course introduces students to the history of the United States with a focus on the post-Civil War Industrial Age to the present day. Beginning with a review of prior political, intellectual, and demographic transformations that shaped the nation, students learn about major political, philosophical, and historical underpinnings of our government. Throughout the course, students analyze how ideas of freedom and equality have shaped our collective past and explore implications for the future. Adopting a chronological approach, students analyze their causes and effects of events in the nation's past. They use primary and secondary sources to explore time and place in the twentieth century. Within their historical study of twentieth century America, students deepen their understanding of major geographical themes, economic principles, and significant concepts in United States government. Throughout the course students learn to develop important questions, conduct inquiry, and evaluate evidence. They also read a variety of historical arguments and develop skills in writing evidentiary-based arguments and historical narratives. By helping identify common and diverse strands that formed and continue to shape life in America, students develop the habits of mind essential for democratic citizenship.

Civics

Required for Grade: 10

Full Year

1 Credit

Civics introduces students to the American political system -- its core values and principles as set forth in foundational documents, as well as its origins, institutions and operations. The course also acquaints students with political parties, historical development of American politics, voting and elections, public opinion and interest groups, branches of federal government, state and local government, criminal and civil law, civil rights, and government and economy. Students are also introduced to the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and of democratic civic involvement. They also are required to fulfill community service obligations.

World History

11th Grade

Full Year

1 Credit

World History is a year long course that gives students the opportunity to explore recurring themes of human experience common to civilizations around the globe from ancient to contemporary times. This course centers on the following themes: the origins and expansion of the global capitalist economy and the varied types of resistances to

that expansion, the rise of secular/scientific thinking and politics, the transformation of religion in the modern world, the influence of technology. Five regions of the world surveyed include: Africa, Asia, Pacific Islands, Europe and Latin America. Historical analysis and interpretations will be surveyed through the lens of comparative examination of the economic, cultural, political, social and technological commonalities and differences between human societies. This course is required in the 11th grade.

Economics

Requirement for Grade 10

Semester

½ Credit

This one-semester required course builds economic literacy in students. The overarching problem of scarcity, unlimited human wants pursuing limited resources, is a focal point of the course. Students deepen their prior knowledge of basic economic concepts and apply them to national and international economic systems and problems as a whole. They explore the various challenges presented by both micro and macro economic perspectives. By focusing on microeconomics, students study how interactions of buyers and sellers impact price and the role of trade-offs and incentives in consumer and business decisions. Students also examine the macroeconomic goals of high employment, stable prices, and economic growth as they explore how the flow of goods and services and money are used measure and influence the status of the economy. After examining the role that governments in the United States play in a market economy, students assess how the activities of households, firms, and governments have global consequences in an increasingly interconnected world. Throughout the course, students use a variety of media to compile, analyze, and present statistical data pertinent to economic problems. Students apply their economic knowledge to make informed decisions as consumers and to participate as citizens in deciding matters of economic policy.