

SOCIAL STUDIES

Graduation Requirement: three credits of high school social studies, including one year of US History

Core classes: offered at honors, college prep and foundations levels

ISOS (9th grade) → World History (10th grade) → US History (11th grade)

Elective classes for juniors and seniors (semester classes):

AP US History (year-long class for interested juniors as their US History course)	
AP Human Geography (year-long course for seniors)	
Philosophy	Economics
World War II to Vietnam	Psychology
Holocaust	Street Law
Current Affairs	

210 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL SCIENCE, 9 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: None.

ISOS is the ninth grade social studies course; it introduces students to the main disciplines and skills of the GSA social studies program. Students study the sub-disciplines of government, economics, history and geography through topics and case studies drawn mostly from the United States but also from other countries. Social studies students and citizens must have a body of knowledge, but more importantly, must use that knowledge for the purpose of developing and articulating opinions. Students learn to discern patterns in information, investigate the accuracy of information, arguments and sources, and develop and debate opinions about social studies issues. Students learn more about using readings, maps, charts and graphs to extract and analyze information. Students develop their writing skills within the social studies, especially argumentative and persuasive writing.

215 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL SCIENCE HONORS, 9 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: None.

ISOS is the ninth grade social studies course; it introduces students to the main disciplines and skills of the GSA social studies program. Students study the sub-disciplines of government, economics, history and geography through topics and case studies drawn mostly from the United States but also from other countries. Social studies students and citizens must have a body of knowledge, but more importantly, must use that knowledge for the purpose of developing and articulating opinions. Students learn to discern patterns in information, investigate the accuracy of information, arguments and sources, and develop and debate opinions about social studies issues. Students learn more about using readings, maps, charts and graphs to extract and analyze information. Students develop their writing skills within the social studies, especially argumentative and persuasive writing.

220 WORLD HISTORY, 10 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Introduction to Social Science, Introduction to Social Science Honors, or Social Studies Foundations.

World History is designed to introduce students to eight important themes in history: power and authority, religious and ethical systems, revolution, interaction with the environment, economics, cultural interaction,

empire building, and science and technology. These themes are explored globally from antiquity to modern times. Students develop organizational skills, note-taking skills from lecture, video, and books, as well as critical thinking skills. There are written assignments, chances for independent research, group projects, homework, and checks for comprehension that are test and quiz based.

225 WORLD HISTORY HONORS, 10 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: Introduction to Social Science or Introduction to Social Science Honors.

World History is designed to introduce students to eight important themes in history: power and authority, religious and ethical systems, revolution, interaction with the environment, economics, cultural interaction, empire building, and science and technology. These themes are explored globally from antiquity to modern times. Students develop organizational skills, note-taking skills from lecture, video, and books, as well as critical thinking skills. There are written assignments, chances for independent research, group projects, homework, and checks for comprehension that are test and quiz based. Students in this course should be prepared for significant homework, especially reading, and significant class discussion.

230 U.S. HISTORY, 11 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: World History or World History Honors, or Social Studies Foundations.

U.S. History deals with the development of American ideals and institutions through the study of major events and personalities of American history from colonization to the modern era. The course provides a perspective on the relationship between the past and contemporary issues. Emphasis is placed upon the development of written and oral communication skills and research through special projects, papers, simulations and debates. Students are routinely required to use charts and maps as well as their reading to make inferences and draw conclusions about the major events in U.S. history. Documentaries are also used to enrich the study of historic periods.

238 FROM WWII TO VIETNAM: CHANGE AND CONFLICT IN AMERICA, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisites: U.S. History or AP U.S. History, or teacher permission.

This course has two main goals: (1) to investigate the major social movements of the late 1940's through the late 1960's. This will include the study of anti-communism, civil rights, and the anti-war movement, and (2) to examine important music, films, and books of the era. To accomplish these goals we will engage in short readings, discussion, and debates. In addition, we will listen to music, watch films, and write several response papers. Each student will read and present a provocative book from the era. Final evaluation will consist of active participation in a collaborative project. Students should take this course only after completing U.S. History.

246 STREET LAW, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisites: None.

This course examines various aspects of your legal rights and responsibilities as citizens. Topics will include law and values, civil liberties, and criminal law. We will also learn about careers in criminal justice, such as a CSI detective or a police officer, through guest speakers. Students are evaluated through tests, reports, case studies, worksheets and class participation, and are expected to actively participate in class debates.

248 PSYCHOLOGY, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisites: None.

This course introduces students to some of the major areas of psychology. Students explore the nature of psychology: Is it objective and scientific? What are the different approaches to psychology? Students are introduced to some of the main topic areas of psychology: consciousness, learning, intelligence, abnormal psychology, personality and gender. The coursework and grading emphasizes developing and arguing opinions based on fact and analysis. Students may take this course because they are interested in a psychology-related career (psychology, medical careers, advertising) or out of personal interest.

250 PHILOSOPHY, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisites: None.

Ethics is the branch of philosophy that aims to answer the question, “How should I live?” Once we take this question seriously, many other difficult, but fascinating, questions emerge: “How do I know what is right?” and “Is right for me the same as right for others?” “What are human rights?” “What happens when rights conflict?” “Do I have to tolerate opinions and behaviors that religious conviction tells me are wrong?” “Do religious beliefs or cultural norms justify offensive or harmful behavior?” “Is it ever right to impose my beliefs and code of conduct on others?” “How do we decide how to treat the unborn? the mentally incompetent? the very young? the very old? the dying? criminals? terrorists?” “Do animals have rights?” “Do I have a moral duty to protect the environment?” In this class we (1) notice the sorts of problems and difficulties we begin to encounter when we try to answer these questions; (2) consider several historically important theoretical ethical frameworks; and (3) study in depth several “live” ethical issues, such as assisted suicide; abortion; famine; animal rights; offense to others; and bioethics.

255 AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY, 12 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: U.S. History or AP U.S. History

Human geography is the study of the geographic patterns of human culture, politics, and economics. We study how human society is influenced by the physical, cultural and spatial environment. Topics of study are mostly from modern history and current events; our range of focus will include the local geography of Hancock County as well as geographic issues from the United States and around the world. In addition to learning geographic content knowledge, students develop skills in mapping, statistics, graphical representation of data, and original research. This course is a college-level introduction to human geography. Students should expect a level of independent learning and workload commensurate with college expectations. Students are also be expected to enter the course with a significant knowledge base from previous social studies courses. Students who enroll in this course are required to take the AP test in May.

261 THE HOLOCAUST, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisites: None.

The will provides an in-depth look at Germany’s post World War I social and political environment that gave rise to Adolf Hitler’s rule and the attempted genocide of the European Jewish population. Hitler’s actions during World War II will be examined, as well as the persecution that the Jewish population of Europe endured during his rule. The aftermath of Hitler’s reign on Germany and the Jewish population will also be analyzed through the course, along with reactions from America and other areas of the world. Students are required to read and discuss at least one book about the Holocaust. Films are used extensively in this class.

263 ELECTIONS IN UNITED STATES HISTORY, 10-12 (½ credit) – not offered 2018-19

Prerequisites: None.

This fall semester course examines the Constitutional roots of the presidency. The class studies the way U.S. presidents are chosen, from the primaries through the electoral college. Students then examine selected presidential campaigns, analyzing candidates, issues, tactics, political cartoons and campaign commercials. Most importantly, the class will closely follow and discuss events from the current presidential campaign.

265 AP U.S. HISTORY, 11 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: World History or World History Honors.

AP U.S. History deals with the development of American society, ideals and institutions through an intensive study of the political, social, economic and cultural history of the United States. The course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with materials and problems in US history. Students learn to assess a variety of historical materials—their relevance to a particular problem, their reliability and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. In preparation, summer reading and writing are required.

Students who enroll in this class should be seeking a college-level history experience; they will also be required to take the AP exam in May.

266 ECONOMICS, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisites: None.

Economics is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of macro and microeconomics. Students learn about the economic factors that affect local businesses and citizens; in particular, students learn how interest rates, inflation, tax policy, and supply and demand factors impact their lives and affect local businesses. Students learn to think critically and creatively about current economic issues facing America and the world today while interacting with a variety of materials to further their understanding. This course is designed for students who may have a future operating their own business, but should also be valuable to students who might study it further in college.

269 CURRENT AFFAIRS, 11-12 (½ credit)

Prerequisites: None.

The course provides an overall understanding of the importance of daily events and demonstrates to students how these events affect their day-to-day lives. This course includes examination and spirited discussion of international, national, state and local issues with the intent of interpreting their significance. Topics could include education, race, energy, environmental protection, free speech, gun rights and health care. The course also focuses on the electoral process, examining selected presidential campaigns, analyzing candidates, issues, tactics, political cartoons and campaign commercials. Daily use of a variety of news media will help place current affairs within a historical perspective as well as consider their current context and future implications.

271 SOCIAL STUDIES FOUNDATIONS 9 and/or 10 (1 credit)

Prerequisites: None. May be taken in both the 9th and 10th grades with teacher permission.

Social Studies Foundations is a joint ninth and tenth grade social studies course; its subject matter alternates every other year. Students can take this course in either or both years as a foundations-level alternative to ISOS and to World History. Students study government, economics, history and geography through topics and case studies drawn both from the United States and from other countries. Social studies students and citizens must have a body of knowledge, but more importantly, must use that knowledge for the purpose of developing and articulating opinions. As a foundations-level course, there is special focus on working with students on their reading and writing skills in the social studies. Students also learn to investigate the accuracy of information, arguments and sources, and develop and debate opinions about social studies issues.