



## **SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES**

Graduation Requirements:

Students entering High School before 2012-2013: World History, Civics and Economics, US History

Students entering High School 2012-2013 and after: World History, American History I, American History II and American History : The Founding Principles- Civics and Economics

Students who entered high school 2012-2013 and after, should consider the Social Studies course sequence they may want to follow when registering.

### **Non-AP Course Sequence:**

9 <sup>th</sup> grade	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	12 <sup>th</sup> grade
World History  (Academic, Honors or Paideia)	American History I (Academic or Honors)	American History II (Academic or Honors) and Electives (Academic, Honors or AP)	American History: Civics and Economics (Academic or Honors) and Electives (Academic, Honors or AP)

### **AP Course Sequence:**

9 <sup>th</sup> grade	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	12 <sup>th</sup> grade
AP World History	AP Elective recommended AP American Government (AP Psychology, AP Human <b>Geography</b> also are options)	APUSH and other electives (Academic, Honors or AP)	American History: Civics and Economics (Academic or Honors) and Electives (Academic, Honors or AP)

Rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade students should register for ONE of the following World History classes:

- Academic World History
- Honors World History
- Paideia World History (Academic or Honors)
- AP World History

## **More about:**

### **Paideia (Freshmen Only)**

Students can opt to take their required World History or Honors World History class as a Paideia Course. The Paideia Program, an interdisciplinary approach where the World History and English I classes include the same cohort of students taught by the same two teachers in back-to-back class periods, encourages students to think across subject areas and curriculum boundaries. These courses develop students' critical and analytical thinking skills by incorporating great classics, modern works of literature, and original documents within the appropriate historical framework. Teachers use traditional means, seminars, and supervised practice referred to as coaching. Paideia is a two-credit course that covers World History and English I requirements. Students must take both courses.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES (unless stated otherwise electives are open to juniors or seniors)**

### **African American History and Culture (rising 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> Grade students ONLY)**

Have you ever wondered how skin color became such an important and defining concept in American culture? Have you ever wondered how people with “black” skin have experienced American history differently, or how the history of the country would be totally different without their contributions? African American History and Culture focuses on the pre-Columbian period and the establishment of strong opposing kingdoms followed by the era of Western European slave trade. Then we examine the impact that slavery had on the African American culture and debate relevant contemporary issues.

### **Geography (rising 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Only)**

Students apply the five cultural and physical geographic themes across a broad range of fields, including the fine arts, sciences, and humanities. These become central to global connections as students expand knowledge of diverse historical and current cultures. The importance of core geographic themes to public policy is explored as students address issues of domestic and international significance.

### **World Religions and the Bible as History**

Religion and Bible is divided into two units. Initially, we study the world's major faiths, focusing on their similarities and differences. From the Islamic Koran to the Biblical Testament, from Moksha to Nirvana, from Jerusalem to Rome, from a mosque to a synagogue we tour the world, examining the concept of religion. Virtual Field Trips are taken to five places of worship. In the final nine weeks, we analyze the relation between the scriptural truth of the Bible and hard historical evidence, which can lead to amazing revelations. From the Burning Bush to the Dead Sea Scrolls, from the Passion to the Stigmata, from the missing Gospels to the notion of miracles, we examine the intricate mysteries of the globe's number one bestseller – the Bible. This is a fun class which can truly open doors and will lend itself to one ultimate goal, universal tolerance of our fellow human being.

## **Honors African American History and Culture (rising 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> Grade students ONLY)**

Have you ever wondered how skin color became such an important and defining concept in American culture? Have you ever wondered how people with “black” skin have experienced American history differently, or how the history of the country would be totally different without their contributions? African American History and Culture focuses on the pre-Columbian period and the establishment of strong opposing kingdoms followed by the era of Western European slave trade. Then we examine the impact that slavery had on the African American culture and debate relevant contemporary issues.

## **Honors Holocaust and Genocide in World Studies**

Following World War II, the United Nations revealed the organized, systematic extermination of Jews throughout Europe by Nazi Germany and its collaborators. This is known as the Holocaust. In 1948 international delegates convened the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide with a singular statement of purpose, ‘*nie wieder*’-- to ‘never again’ allow genocide. Unfortunately, the United Nations could not stop the spread of genocide between groups, whose historic, cultural and economic animosities could not be resolved. The Twentieth Century became known as the “Century of Genocide”, and today genocide continues in places such as Darfur, Africa and elsewhere.

In this course, we will study what Gregory Stanton (President of Genocide Watch) describes as the eight-stage framework for genocide. We shall apply this theory to the Holocaust, and we shall compare the Holocaust to other historical and present genocides. Most importantly, we will attempt to quantify the effects of genocide and analyze ways in which we can prevent future genocides.

This course is more than the mere recollections of facts. This course is the narrative of the human condition as we strive to seek, what Abraham Lincoln described, the “better angels of our nature.” Understanding that each of us participates collectively in writing this ongoing narrative makes Honors Holocaust & Genocide perhaps the most important course that students will ever take.

## **Honors Law and Justice**

Laws impact our professional and personal interactions daily. Laws are synonymous with rules, regulations, statutes and code. What, however, is the difference between Law and Justice? To most contemporary lay observers, law and justice are interchangeable concepts, but are they? Law has been viewed as the means to enact justice, and at times, law has been viewed as both the means and the end of organized society.

In this course, we shall seek to define the law, from Hammurabi’s Babylonian code to present-day laws including the U.S. Constitution. We shall also seek to define justice. We shall discover how laws have been and are used to create both fairness and inequity within U.S. society. This course will also show how the law is used throughout our contemporary society, from the establishment of property rights and civil rights to regulations affecting non-legal professions and simple purchase transactions.

This course is divided into two parts. The first part analyzes the origins of U.S. civil law and U.S. civil law itself, presenting and applying the elements of property law, contracts, torts and civil lawsuits. The second part evaluates U.S. criminal law and criminal procedure, focusing on constitutional protections

and exceptions, defining criminal behavior, criminal trials and criminal sentencing. In both units, North Carolina law will be compared to other states' and federal statutes. Each unit culminates with the application of legal concepts in mock trials.

### **Honors Lessons of the Vietnam War and International Relations**

The first half of this course focuses on the Vietnam War and related issues. Topics include the geography, history, and culture of Vietnam; the ethical questions that arose during the conflict; the events of the social protest movement; worldwide response and involvement in Vietnam; problems of Vietnamese refugees and U.S. veterans; and Vietnam today. The second half is designed as a study of the major trends and issues in the post-World War II era with an insight into the growing interdependence of nations of the world. Emphasis is placed on the decision-making process of the United States in the field of foreign affairs. Recent problems, policies, and programs of the United States are analyzed. **(completion of American 2 Recommended)**

### **Honors Psychology**

What is your personality? What do your dreams mean? Who is Sigmund Freud? Why do we fall in love? What is schizophrenia and how is it treated? Why would people wash their hands until they bleed? If you have ever wondered about these questions, then psychology is the class for you! This elective focuses on the study of the individual and behavior. We look at a variety of topics that help us better understand the human mind and actions, exploring everything from emotions to childhood development to abnormal behaviors. We will also conduct experiments and analyze results. If you have ever thought about being a psychologist, or if you just want to learn more about people and their behavior, then psychology is a great choice for you.

### **Honors Sociology**

What social forces shaped your self concept and sense of morality? How does your position in society shape your perspective on social issues? To what extent do we really understand the causes and effects of inequality in America? In Sociology, we will explore these kinds of questions through highly interactive activities, text and video analysis, and group discussions and debates. Ultimately, you will see yourself and the world around you in a whole new way.

### **Honors World Religions and the Bible as History**

Religion and Bible is divided into two units. Initially, we study the world's major faiths, focusing on their similarities and differences. From the Islamic Koran to the Biblical Testament, from Moksha to Nirvana, from Jerusalem to Rome, from a mosque to a synagogue we tour the world, examining the concept of religion. Virtual Field Trips are taken to five places of worship. In the final nine weeks, we analyze the relation between the scriptural truth of the Bible and hard historical evidence, which can lead to amazing revelations. From the Burning Bush to the Dead Sea Scrolls, from the Passion to the Stigmata, from the missing Gospels to the notion of miracles, we examine the intricate mysteries of the globe's number one bestseller – the Bible. This is a fun class which can truly open doors and will lend itself to one ultimate goal, universal tolerance of our fellow human being.

## **AP European History (Fall Only)**

AP European History is equivalent to introductory European History at the college level. It covers the time from the Renaissance and the Reformation to the post-World War II era. Emphasis is on three main themes: (1) political and diplomatic developments, (2) intellectual and cultural continuity and change, and (3) economic and social developments. Substantial out-of-class reading, writing, and research are expected. Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the College Board Advanced Placement test.

## **AP Government and Politics**

This course is a survey of the United States national political system. This course is heavily content-oriented, examining the U.S. constitutional system, its historical development, and current trends of the system with the goal to further skill development through a rigorous course of study. Assignments involve student reading, analysis, synthesis, writing, and speaking. Lectures, current problems, and practices are frequently used. Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the College Board Advanced Placement test.

## **AP Human Geography**

The purpose of the AP Human Geography course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students learn to employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. – College Board

## **AP Macroeconomics**

Macroeconomics looks at the big picture of the nation's economy. Students will gain an understanding of how the and why government makes the economic decisions it does. Inflation, Unemployment, GDP, Interest Rates, Federal Reserve, monetary and fiscal policy will all be covered and used to solve economic problems. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement Test.

**This course is only offered every other year so it will be offered for the 2016-17 school year, but not the 2017-18 school year.**

## **AP Psychology**

Students study the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields within psychology. The study of psychology enables students to recognize and cope with uncertainty and ambiguity in human behavior. Substantial out-of-class reading, writing, and research are expected. Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the College Board Advanced Placement test.

## **AP US History (Fall Only)**

Advanced Placement United States History is a course that is equivalent to an introductory level American History at the college level. This course provides an analytical and historical study of the United States by examining the major trends and events spanning United States history from the age of discovery to the present. Substantial out-of-class reading, writing, and research are expected. Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the College Board Advanced Placement test.

## **AP World History (Freshmen Only)**

*This course is recommended for the student who would NOT be challenged by Honors World History, who is a strong writer, made a 4 on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade English EOG and an A in Social Studies.*

**Course Description:** This course concentrates on the patterns of global processes and contacts in interaction with different types of human societies. This course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. Students build an understanding of cultural, institutional, and technological precedents that, along with geography, set the human stage prior to C. E. (the common era). Substantial out-of-class reading, writing, and research are expected. It is expected that students enrolled in this course will take the College Board Advanced Placement test.