

# **SOCIAL STUDIES**



*Social Studies prepares students for enlightened citizenship in a participating democracy. Therefore, students focus first on the study of Global issues, continue with the history of the United States and culminate in the study of Economics and Participating Government. There are also many electives that students can choose from to enrich their study of history and the social sciences. These include Psychology, AP Psychology, Philosophy, Film as History, Leadership, and Senior Seminar.*

## **GLOBAL HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY I** 1 credit Grade 9 (R) - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course will examine the events that shaped global history from the Ancient Greeks and Romans, through the dynasties of China, the great empires of Africa and the Native American legacies of Latin America. The course will emphasize the history of the world through the late 1700's. Global History will make strong use of primary sources and geography materials. Students will move on to Global History and Geography II in Grade 10 where they will finish the chronological accounting of world history and take the Global History and Geography Regents. All students must complete a Research Paper as part of the course requirements.

## **GLOBAL HISTORY PRE-AP** 1 credit Grade 9 (H) - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course will examine world history through a series of major themes spanning from the development of the earliest civilizations through the growth of empires, with an emphasis on political and social systems throughout the world. This course will be taught both thematically and chronologically emphasizing the history of the world through the late 1700s. Students will be required to read several sources beyond the scope of the textbook as well as complete analytical writing assignments. It is the expectation that students take the Advanced Placement Examination in World History at the conclusion of the course in Grade 10. All students must complete a Research Paper as part of the course requirements.

## **GLOBAL HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY II** 1 credit Grade 10 (R) - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course will continue the chronological accounting of global history begun in 9th grade. It will examine the emergence of the modern world since 1800, studying and contrasting the various revolutions, technological advances, wars and the impact they have all had on the lives of people living Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. In keeping with the new standards, Global History and Geography will make strong use of primary sources and geography materials. Students will finish the year by taking the Global History and Geography Regents. All students must complete a Research Paper as part of the course requirements.

## **AP WORLD HISTORY** 1 credit Grade 10 (AP) - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course will be a continuation of Global History Pre-AP taken in 9th Grade. It will highlight the nature of changes in international frameworks since 1800, their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. The course offers balanced global coverage with Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe each represented. Students will be required to critically analyze historical events and evidence worldwide. Strong use of primary documents, geography, student discussions and historical interpretations will be incorporated. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examination in World History in May and are required to take the Global History and Geography Regents in June. All students must complete a Research Paper as part of the course requirements.

## **UNITED STATES HISTORY & GOVERNMENT** 1 credit Grade 11 (R) - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course takes a chronological approach to American history and examines the workings of our government. Particular emphasis is placed on post-Civil War America and our emergence as a world power in the 20th Century. Increasing emphasis is placed on the role of geography in shaping our history and on the use of primary sources. All students are required to take the U.S. History and Government Regents in June. All students must complete a Research Paper as part of the course requirements.

**AP AMERICAN HISTORY** 1 credit Grade 11 (AP) - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course in American History is taught at the college-level. It explores the major events in American History and tries to understand why things happened the way they did. The course offers students the opportunity to study their national heritage in-depth with seminars, document-based questions and interdisciplinary projects. Students should expect challenging historical readings and analytical writing assignments. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examination in American History in May and are required to take the U.S. History and Government Regents in June. All students must complete a Research Paper as part of the course requirements.

**PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT** ½ credit Grade 12 (R) - NCAA Approved Core Course

The purpose of this one semester course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills to become active citizens on the local, state and national levels. The goal is to provide the opportunity to understand public policy through participation in the democratic process. Instructional activities may include mock trials, model Congress, model United Nations, public policy debates and book reviews. All students must complete a Research Paper as part of the course requirements.

**ECONOMICS** ½ credit Grade 12 (R) - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course will deal with the basic concepts and principles of economics, the major elements of economic systems and the roles of various components, including consumers, business, labor and government. The major focus is the market structures and the global nature of today's economy.

**AP U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS/ECONOMICS** 1 credit Grade 12 (AP) - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course is a college-level survey course in American Government. Instructional activities include mock Supreme Court trials, student discussions, the heavy use of statistics, research papers and book reviews. The spring semester stresses the role of government (Congress, the Federal Reserve, regulatory agencies) as important factors in the nation's economy. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examination in U.S. Government and Politics in May. All students must complete a research paper as part of the Core Curriculum.

**PHILOSOPHY (H)** 1 credit Grades 11, 12 (H) - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course takes a thematic approach to the classical areas of philosophical thought using philosophical problems, paradoxes, and examples from popular culture (including clips from movies, television shows, music, and literature). Major areas of study will include the nature of reality and existence, how knowledge is acquired, logic, political philosophy, and an extended unit on applied ethics. A great deal of focus will be on classroom discussion and applying philosophical issues to one's own life experiences. Students will have the option to take this course for college credit through Molloy College.

**PSYCHOLOGY** ½ credit Grades 10, 11, 12 - NCAA Approved Core Course

Psychology is an elective that explores human behavior. It looks at many of the theories of leading psychologists (Freud, Jung, Piaget, Pavlov) and attempts to explain human development and motivation. Topics include personality development, dream interpretation, psychological disorders, dependencies and violence in our society.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY** 1 credit Grades 11, 12 (AP) - NCAA Approved Core Course

This college-level course will introduce students to the scientific study of behavior and the mental processes of human beings. The course will examine the major schools of psychology-the biological, behavior, cognitive and humanistic approaches taken to psychology. It will also examine various issues associated with psychology-development of personality, dream interpretation, the learning process, abnormal psychology and theories of motivation. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. There is no prerequisite for this course.

**ENDURING ISSUES IN FILM** ½ credit Grades 10, 11, 12 (Alternate day or ½ year)

This course will examine enduring issues and constitutional issues as shown on film. The course will identify and define an enduring issue or constitutional issue raised through the film. The course will focus on why the issue selected is significant, how it has endured across time and the impact of the issue on world events or on American society. The course will examine ways to create solutions tot the issues. Page 38

**HISTORY AND FUTURE OF NEW YORK CITY AND LONG ISLAND** ½ credit Grades 10, 11, 12 - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course examines the history of New York City and Long Island, beginning with the development of the five boroughs and Long Island through modern day. Special attention will be paid to the issues associated with the growth of New York City and Long Island. The course will examine ways to address the challenges currently facing the region such as adequate and affordable housing, transportation, environmental issues, migration of younger residents out of state and the economy. Students will work collaboratively to create solutions. Complementing classroom instruction will be field trips to notable locations throughout Long Island and New York City. Special focus on: • Development and History of the Boroughs and Long Island • History and Development of Bethpage • Building of Tunnels and Buildings, Transit systems • Historical Events with an emphasis on the interactions between many cultures and peoples • Historical figures and their impact • Economic then and now • Future Challenges and possible solutions

**LEGAL EAGLES** ½ credit Grades 10, 11, 12 - NCAA Approved Core Course

This course is specifically designed for students who have an interest in the law. Throughout the half year course we will discuss many facets of the American legal system which will culminate in a mock trial experience. Just a few of the topics that we will discuss include civil and criminal law, the law and terrorism, developing a defense and Constitutional Law.

**SENIOR SEMINAR** (Alternate days) ½ credit Grade 12

The senior seminar program is designed to provide seniors with the opportunity to comprehensively learn about the challenges of transitioning to college, as well as identifying and developing strategies to deal with the obstacles that the transition to adult life may pose. Students will proactively tackle critical events such as, the college application process, personal finance, professionalism and the transition to the working world. Students will be exposed to first hand experiences and information as well as identifying and developing strategies to deal with the obstacles that the transition to adult life may pose. At the conclusion of the course the student will take W!SE's standardized financial Literacy Certificate test.

**AP RESEARCH** 1 credit Grade 11, 12 - NCAA Approved Core Course AP Research allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, students design, plan, and conduct a year long mentored, research-based investigation to address a specific question. In this course, students further develop the skills acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning about and understanding research methods; employing ethical research practices; and accessing, and analyzing, and synthesizing information as they address a research question. The course culminates in an academic thesis paper, presentation, performance, or exhibition with an oral defense. Enrollment guideline: Successful completion of AP Seminar.