

SOCIAL STUDIES



Global History 9 & 10

Global Studies is a two year course for grades 9 and 10, preparing students for a Regents examination that is administered at the end of the 10th grade year. Students must pass the Global History and Geography Regents in order to graduate.

The course is divided into eight broad historical eras: Early Civilizations, Empires of the Ancient World, Regional Civilizations, Global Interactions, Enlightenment and Revolutions, Industrialization, New Global Age: World Wars and Revolutions, and finally the World Today. The study of each historical era focuses on general themes and concepts that can be used to connect the eras to each other. The themes and concepts include belief systems, change, cultural and intellectual life, diversity, economic systems, environment, geography, imperialism, interdependence, justice and human rights, movement of peoples and goods, nationalism, political systems, science and technology, and urbanization.

In addition to historical understanding of each theme or concept, an emphasis is placed on writing about themes and concepts, and on analyzing first hand accounts and information pertaining to the various eras that are studied.

Grades: 9 & 10
Prerequisite: None

Required 1 unit (each year)
2 year course of study

United States History and Government (Regents)

A comprehensive look at the history of the United States with special emphasis on the following topics: The American People, Government and Politics, American Economic Life, The United States and World Affairs, American Civilization in Historic Perspective (Education, Science and Technology, Creative Arts). The basic aim is that students acquire the information needed for intelligent citizenship and that they continue to grow in civic competence.

Grade: 11
Prerequisite: Global Studies 9 & 10

Required 1 unit
1 year

Participation in Government

This one semester course attempts to provide all students with an in-depth idea of their duties and responsibilities as American citizens. It focuses on forming opinions on major issues of our society and being able to back those opinions with concrete reasoning. Newspapers, magazines, and television will play a large role in the course. Involvement in citizenship projects outside of class is expected and rewarded.

Grade: 12
Prerequisite: U.S. History & Government.

Required 1/2 unit
1 semester

Economics

This one semester course focuses on both macroeconomics (the basics) and microeconomics (a detailed study). Emphasis will be placed on why we study economics, economic system, supply demand, and price, the consumer, business, labor, agriculture, and goods and services.

Newspapers, magazines, and outside reading will be used as resource materials.

Grade: 12

Prerequisite: U.S. History & Government.

Required 1 unit

1 semester

AP U. S. History

AP United State History focuses on developing students' abilities to think conceptually about U. S. History from approximately 1491 to the present and apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past. Seven themes of equal importance – identify; peopling; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; environment and geography; and ideas, beliefs, and culture – provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. These require students to reason historically about continuity and change over time and make comparisons among various historical developments in different times and places.

Grade: 11, 12

Prerequisite: none

Required 1/2 unit

1 year

History through Film

This course will use film to approach the history of the United States and the World. Students will be asked to rethink the relationships between "reality" and "representation" and use higher level thinking skills to analyze the boundaries between history and film. Movies and films are texts deserving the same skills of critical thinking and analysis as any other cultural artifact. Students are used to analyzing the written word, but rarely are they asked to think critically about other cultural entities such as music, film, and television. This will be a unique way for students to gain a deeper understanding of some of the major themes they have studied in history, while continuing to allow them to hone their critical thinking skills.

Grade: 11 or 12

Prerequisite: none

Required 1 unit

1 year

HISTORY ELECTIVES

Comparative World Religions

This course offers an introductory survey of the major religions of the world. Through lectures, discussions, assigned readings, independent learning, and occasional audio-visual presentations, students will gain a broad, basic knowledge of the major religions of the world. These religions are Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Shinto, and Taoism. In addition, if time allows, other belief systems, such as Native American Tribal religions and Confucianism may be included. For each religion, there will be an exploration of the history of the religion, the major beliefs, the important literature, as well as institutions of the religion. Attempts will be made to make connections between the religions, and how they influence the world today. Course may be offered as a one (1) semester elective or as an independent study.

Grade: 11 or 12

Prerequisite: Global History

1/2 unit

1 semester

Historical Debate

This class is designed to improve reading, thinking, and speaking skills by focusing on controversial issues from throughout world and U.S. History. In addition to applying practical research methods, students will also gain experience in problem-solving and group processes. A debate is a specialized form of persuasive speaking. Students will focus on the organization, research, strategy, and delivery of debates. The goal of the class is for students to develop the ability to think and formulate ideas and arguments more quickly and effectively. This course is offered every other year.

Grade: 11 or 12

Prerequisite: Global History

1/2 unit

1 semester

Local History

This course investigates the history of the community of Copenhagen and the surrounding areas of Lewis and Jefferson Counties through the use of primary/secondary source materials, records and documents, and personal recollections of residents.

Students will be expected to read accounts of early histories, analyze data from census records, handle and evaluate primary sources, conduct interviews, and carry out research on topics related to local history.

Why was Copenhagen originally known as Munger's Mills? When and how were Lewis and Jefferson Counties settled? What role did the local area play in the War of 1812 and other conflicts in American History? What local residents rose to positions of political, economic, or social prominence? These are a few of the questions we will address in this course. This course is offered every other year.

Grade: 11 or 12

Prerequisite: Global History

1/2 unit

1 semester

Current Issues in American History

This course is designed to acquaint students to the issues, problems, and concerns facing the American nation at the beginning of the 21st century.

Topics presented will include education, healthcare and aging, crime and drugs, constitutional rights, national security, economic policy, foreign policy, immigration, poverty, women and minorities, human rights, and trade.

Students will have the opportunity to select topics of interest to them to study and research in depth, present reports to the class, and engage in debates on policy choices. This course is offered every other year.

Grade: 11 or 12

Prerequisite: Global History

1/2 unit

1 semester

Environmental Movement

This course is a study of the problems that have arisen to confront our planet and our environment with a focus on how society has viewed these problems. We will focus on what groups have developed to try and deal with these environmental problems, and exactly how they

work. This course is offered every other year.

Grade: 11 or 12

Prerequisite: Global History

1/2 unit

1 semester