

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIAL STUDIES

Advanced Program Exploring Civics – Facing History and Ourselves (42210091)* **Grade level: 9th*

Prerequisite(s): None

This course is designed to allow students to define their role in society. Facing History and Ourselves is an international educational organization whose mission is to engage students to diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism, prejudice, and anti-Semitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry. The course is guided by the belief that education can be an effective means of preparing youth for their role as active, thoughtful, socially responsible citizens and can serve as a preventive tool against intolerance, discrimination, and violence. The material will challenge students to confront moral dilemmas that arise in history and in their own lives, reflect upon choices made, and “choose to participate” in creating democratic communities. Students will move through a two semester rotation. One semester consist of identity and social issues, including a focus on the Holocaust/Human Behavior. The second semester will consist of identity and the civil rights movement, including an in-depth study of the Choices in Little Rock.

Advanced Placement Human Geography (42241361)* **Grade level: 9th*

Prerequisite(s): None

This course follows the College Board curriculum. This course prepares the student to use and think about maps and spatial data sets, understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places, recognize and interpret relationships among patterns and processes, define regions and examine how regions come into being, and characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places. Research and analytical writing are required.

Note: This course may also be taken any year, but is primarily offered for freshmen. The course provides a good base for other Advanced Placement Social Studies courses. College level curriculum taught in a high school setting.

Honors World Civilizations (42220131)* **Grade level: 10th*

Prerequisite(s): None

This course is a survey course, which focuses primarily on the historical and cultural development of major civilizations since 1500. The major religious, economic, and political revolutions receive intensive study. Emphasis is placed on the use of critical thinking skills to evaluate key issues in world history and the student is expected to extend his/her readings well beyond the textbook. Historical documents and conflicting interpretations are examined in order to analyze landmark events and historical conditions.

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Note: An in depth research project is part of the course.

Advanced Placement World History (42220261)* **Grade level: 10th*

Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing and Instructor recommendation.

This course follows the College Board curriculum. This course builds on an understanding of cultural, institutional, and technological precedents that, along with geography, form a foundation for modern history, and focuses primarily on human history from 1000 A.D. to the present. Historical understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. Research and analytical writing are required.

Note: College level curriculum taught in a high school setting

Advanced Placement European History (42241261)**Grade level: 10th****Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing and instructor recommendation.**

This course follows the College Board curriculum. This study of European history since 1450 introduces students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the modern world. The student develops an understanding of the principal themes in modern European history, and develops the ability to analyze historical evidence and express historical understanding in writing.

Note: College level curriculum taught in a high school setting. Course maybe taken as an elective during 11th or 12th.

Honors Program United States History (42230031)**Grade level: 11th****Prerequisite(s): None**

This course completes the study of U.S. history that was introduced in the eighth-grade U.S. history class and focuses on the development of the United States since 1865. The course requires higher levels of learning, more opportunities for critical thinking and analysis of historical data, and more rigorous reading assignments. Research is part of the course evaluation, organization, and presentation.

Advanced Program United States History (42230091)**Grade level: 11th****Prerequisite(s): None**

This is a survey course the closely examines the political, economic, and social conditions of each era. While the whole of United States history is covered, particular attention is given to the period from 1865 to the present. Emphasis is placed on the use of critical thinking skills to evaluate key issues in United States history, and the student is expected to extend his/her readings well beyond the textbook. Historical documents and conflicting interpretations are examined in order to analyze landmark events and historical conditions.

Advanced Placement United States History (42230061)**Grade level: 11th****Prerequisite(s): Junior standing and instructor recommendation.**

This course follows the College Board curriculum. This course is designed to allow students to examine United States history from the first European explorations of the Americas to the present. The course includes rigorous reading assignments, and requires students to analyze and interpret primary sources, including documentary material, maps, statistical tables, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events. Research and analytical writing are required.

Note: College level curriculum taught in a high school setting

Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics/**Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics (42230461)****Grade level: 11th or 12th****Prerequisite(s): Junior standing and instructor recommendation. It is highly recommended that students taking the course have completed U.S. History.**

This course follows the College Board curriculum. In the first semester the course includes an in-depth study of U.S. Government and Politics. The course covers various institutions, groups and ideas that constitute U.S. government, deeply analyzing these concepts and taking into account a variety of theoretical perspectives and beliefs. Topics such as Constitutional underpinnings, political beliefs and behaviors, institutions of national government, public policy, and civil rights and liberties will be discussed.

In the second semester the course critically analyzes and compares different governmental and political structures from throughout the world. The course covers the governments of six core countries (the United Kingdom, Mexico, Nigeria, Iran, Russia and China) and develops an understanding of the sources of power, institutions, political history, and cultural makeup of each of these countries.

Note: College level curriculum taught in a high school setting. Students will prepare for the AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam during one semester and AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam the other semester.

Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics (42231461)**Grade level: 11th or 12th****Prerequisite(s): Junior standing and Instructor recommendation. It is highly recommended that students taking the course have completed U.S. History.**

This course follows the College Board curriculum. This course gives the student an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics. Topics such as Constitutional underpinnings of the U.S. government, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties, institutions of national government, public policy, and civil rights and civil liberties will be discussed.

Note: College level curriculum taught in a high school setting

Government and Politics (42240311)**Grade level: 11th or 12th****Prerequisite(s): None**

This course introduces the student to both theoretical political science and to practical politics. Emphasis is placed on the skills and concepts used by the political scientist and on the processes involved in practicing political decision-making.

Introduction to Psychology (42240211)**Grade level: 11th or 12th****Prerequisite(s): None**

This course is a scientific study of behavior. It introduces selected topics of psychological study and the skills and methods of psychological experimentation. The course emphasizes biological and environmental influences, intelligence and learning, personality, and behavior patterns.

Note: Elective course.

Advanced Placement Psychology (42240261)**Grade level: 11th or 12th****Prerequisite(s): Instructor recommendation.**

This course follows the College Board curriculum. This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic scientific study of the behavior of mental processes of human beings and animals. Students are exposed to psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major sub-fields within psychology. The methods psychologists' use in their science and practice are examined.

Note: College level curriculum taught in a high school setting

Economics (42240511)**Grade level: 11th or 12th****Prerequisite(s): None**

This course introduces students to decision-making based on economic principles. In addition to personal finance concepts, key topics include supply and demand, banking, small businesses/entrepreneurship, and the role of the government in the economy.

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics (42242761)**Grade level: 11th or 12th****Prerequisite(s): Instructor recommendation.**

This course follows the College Board curriculum. This course is designed to give the student a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Topics covered include: basic economic concepts, measurement of economic performance, national income, price determination and international economics of growth.

Note: College level curriculum taught in a high school setting

Advanced Placement Microeconomics (42242661)**Grade level: 11th or 12th****Prerequisite(s): Instructor recommendation.**

This course follows the College Board curriculum. This course is designed to give the student a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. Topics covered include: basic economic concepts, the nature and function of product markets, factor markets, efficiency, equity and the role of government.

Note: College level curriculum taught in a high school setting

The Holocaust (42240811)**Grade level: 11th or 12th****Prerequisite(s): None.**

This is a course designed to study this particular event in history in detail and substance, and to research and compare similar events of the past in which inhumane treatment of groups of people has occurred. The course examines the German culture of the early 20th century to see how social, political, and economic conditions, as well as world events, led to an environment in which the Holocaust could take place. Current issues along with strategies for reducing hate and promoting tolerance are examined.

Note: Elective course.