
SOCIAL STUDIES

COURSES OFFERED

Grade 9

The American Experience	# 2209
History of the Western World	# 2309
American History/Cultures	# 2409
Western Civilizations	# 2509
Honors American History/Cultures	# 2408
Honors European History	# 2414
Anthropology	# 2403

Grade 10

Fundamentals of World Cultures	# 2210
World Cultures	# 2410
Honors World Affairs	# 2415
Anthropology	# 2403

Grade 11

Fundamentals of Democracy I	# 2211
Modern American History/Cultures	# 2411
American Government	# 2512
Honors Modern American History	# 2111
Honors American Government	# 2811

Grades 11, 12

AP United States History	# 2011
AP European History	# 2012
Economics	# 2511
Honors American Foreign Policy: 1945-Present	# 2611
Honors History of Europe and Russia: 1945-Present	# 2712
Honors History of East Asia: 1945-Present	# 2711
Law and Justice	# 2412
Multicultural Experience	# 2610

Grade 12

Sociology	# 2911
Psychology	# 2612
Fundamentals of Democracy II	# 2212

THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Semester – Required/Full Time **No. 2209**
Grade 9 Phase I **Credit .5**
IMPACT

Continuing chronologically from where the 8th grade American History/Cultures course ended, this American Experience course develops the major themes of the late 1800s through the mid-1900s. Topics include: Geography (local and national), Immigration, the Rise of Labor, America as a World Power, Prosperity and Depression, and World War II. Emphasis is placed on the development of skills including: note taking, organization, study skills, and reading comprehension, and the development of written language skills.

Criteria for Selection -

Students must be recommended by a School Counselor and/or a teacher for the IMPACT Program. An interview process is also in place as a means of selection.

HISTORY OF THE WESTERN WORLD **No. 2309**
Semester – Required/Full Time
Grade 9 Phase I **Credit .5**
IMPACT

The History of the Western World develops the major themes of the Western World from the 1500s to 1939. Major topics include: the Renaissance, Reformation, Absolutism, French Revolution, Napoleonic Era, Growth of Parliament, Industrialism, Nationalism, World War I, and the Rise of Totalitarianism. Special attention is given to the development of such skills as: note taking, organization, study skills, reading comprehension, and the development of writing skills.

Criteria for Selection -

Students must be recommended by a School Counselor and/or a teacher for the IMPACT Program. An interview process is also in place as a means of selection.

AMERICAN HISTORY/CULTURES **No. 2409**
Semester – Required/Full Time
Grade 9 Phases II, III, IV **Credit .5**

Continuing chronologically where the 8th grade course ended, this course covers the time period from 1890-1945. Major topics include Immigration, Reform Movement, Economic Development, the Emergence of the United States as a World Power, the Boom and Collapse of the 1920's, The Great Depression, and World War II. A major objective is the attempt to help students understand contemporary society by illustrating its origins. Examples of local and Pennsylvania history are used in order to demonstrate this connection.

Criteria for Selection - None.

WESTERN CIVILIZATIONS **No. 2509**
Semester – Required/Full Time
Grade 9 Phases II, III, IV **Credit .5**

The focus of this course is the History of Western Culture. This course will examine the development of European social, economic, and political systems and the geography of

the region. Topics covered include: Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Absolutism, French Revolution, Napoleonic Era, Growth of Parliament, Industrialism, Nationalism, World War I, and the Rise of Totalitarianism.

Criteria for Selection - None.

HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY/CULTURES **No. 2408**
Semester/Full Time **Honors Wt.**
Grade 9 Phases III, IV **Credit .5**

This course focuses on key historical events and problems facing the development of the United States from the New Immigration at the turn of the 20th century through World War II. The student will develop critical thinking skills and problem-solving techniques. Emphasis will be placed on dissecting events and information via cultural, political, and social/economical avenues as well as geographic analysis. Throughout the semester, the student will create a combination of projects ranging from oral history research, and multimedia slide shows, to written papers, dramatic presentations, and exploration of career opportunities.

Criteria for Selection -

1. An 'A' in Social Studies courses.
2. Recommendation of 8th grade Social Studies teacher.
3. Strong reading and writing skills.

HONORS EUROPEAN HISTORY **No. 2414**
Semester/Full Time **Honors Wt.**
Grade 9 Phases III, IV **Credit .5**

The 9th Grade Honors European History course focuses on the origins and development of Western Civilization and European Culture from the Middle Ages through 1939, and the evolution of the political, social, religious, and economic institutions in the modern western world. Emphasis will be on analyzing information, writing essays, working with technology, and developing research skills.

Criteria for Selection -

1. An 'A' in Social Studies courses.
2. Recommendation of Social Studies teacher.
3. Strong reading and writing skills.

FUNDAMENTALS OF WORLD CULTURES **No. 2210**
Full Year/Full Time
Grade 10 Phase I **Credit 1.0**
IMPACT

The course provides a review of geographical skills and economic principles. Students are given an overview of cultures from around the world. A multi-disciplinary approach that stresses geography, history, economics, and government is used to explore Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. Students will develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of primary documents and articles relating to contemporary and global issues and their impact.

Criteria for Selection -

Students must be recommended by a School Counselor and/or a teacher for the IMPACT Program. An interview process is also in place as a means of selection.

WORLD CULTURES No. 2410
Full Year – Required/Full Time
Grade 10 Phases II, III, IV Credit 1.0

This course provides a review of geographical skills and economic principles. Students are given an overview of cultures from around the world. A multi-disciplinary approach that stresses geography, history, economics, and government is used to explore Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. Students will develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of primary documents and articles relating to contemporary and global issues and their impact.

Criteria for Selection - None.

HONORS WORLD AFFAIRS No. 2415
Full Year/Full Time Honors Weight
Grade 10, Phases III, IV Credit 1.0

Students in this course will examine current world events and investigate a variety of contemporary global issues. The course curriculum will focus on the regions of Far East Asia, Latin America, the Mid-East, Africa, and Europe. Course work will also investigate the influence of historical and contemporary events and forces on the current challenges and problems facing the global community. The role of the U.S. in these historical and contemporary affairs will be examined. Course work will involve several case studies and will involve extensive research on a variety of topics. The development of problem-solving skills and the use of logical decision-making techniques will be emphasized. A 'team' strategy will be employed as much as possible to foster interpersonal skills and the ability to assign responsibility for a complex task. It is highly recommended that those selecting this course have at least average computer skills including the use of word-processing program. The course materials also demands well-developed reading and writing skill levels of those who participate.

This course can be taken in lieu of the required World Cultures course by those 10th grade students who meet the following criteria.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Final grade of 'A' in all required 9th grade Social Studies classes **or** an 'A' or 'B' in a 9th grade Honors level Social Studies course.
2. The recommendations of 9th grade Social Studies teacher.

ANTHROPOLOGY No. 2403
Semester-Elective/Full Time
Grades 9, 10 Phases III, IV Credit .5

Anthropology deals with the study of man. The course focuses on how varying societies develop the standard societal structure. The outline of the course includes the Bushmen, status and role, the M'buti, the Anasazi, and the Origins of Man. Topics are analyzed through anthropological case studies, group interaction, simulations, and computer work. The main objective is to learn general human behavioral patterns. Through this comparison and self-examination, the

students will better understand themselves.
Criteria for Selection - None.

FUNDAMENTALS OF DEMOCRACY I No. 2211
Full Year/Full Time
Grade 11 Phase I Credit 1.0

This course is designed to support the needs of 11th grade students with reading and writing difficulties. Students study Contemporary American Culture by examining the history of our nation from the end of World War II until the Present. Basic social and economic principles are examined in connection with the main events of this period of U.S. history. The primary focus of the course is to assist the student in building and strengthening their reading, writing, listening, speaking, and study skills.

Criteria for Selection -

Students must be recommended by a School Counselor and a Social Studies teacher.

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY/CULTURES No. 2411
Semester - Required/Full Time
Grade 11 Phases II, III, IV Credit .5

This course is the final phase of the American History/Cultures program. The course covers the time period from 1945 to the Present. This required interdisciplinary study emphasizes the present by examining the major events that have impacted our history and culture.

Criteria for Selection - None.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT No. 2512
Semester - Required/Full Time
Grade 11 Phases II, III, IV Credit .5

The American Constitutional System of Government will be studied with emphasis on its foundation and current stage of development. The role of the individual in relation to the federal, state and local government will be stressed. Aspects of social, economic, and political history of our nation are included to give each student a background for practical application of his/her role as a citizen.

Criteria for Selection - None.

HONORS MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY No. 2111
Semester/Full Time Honors Wt.
Grade 11 Phases III, IV Credit .5

This Honors course is the final phase of the Modern American History program. The course covers the time period from 1945 to the Present and explores the domestic and foreign policies of each administration and their impact on the citizenry of the United States and the impact to the world. This is a required interdisciplinary study emphasizing critical analytical skills, discussion skills, in-depth reading skills, and writing skills.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Final grade of 'A' in all required 10th grade Social Studies classes or an 'A' or 'B' in Honors World Affairs.
2. Recommendation of Social Studies teacher.
3. Students must schedule Honors American Government and Honors Modern American History.

HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT **No. 2811**
Semester/Full Time **Honors Wt.**
Grade 11 Phases III, IV **Credit .5**

This course examines in detail the Political System of the United States - its history, traditions, values, and institutional framework. Students will develop an understanding of the philosophical foundations upon which the American Political System is based, and the Constitutional frame in which our government operates. Students will utilize readings and case studies to analyze public opinion, political parties, voting patterns, and interest group behavior in our political process. The institutions of the Federal Government - Congress, the Presidency, and Federal Courts, will be explored in-depth, with particular emphasis on Supreme Court cases addressing Civil Rights and Liberties. The course will conclude with discussion and analysis of current critical public policy issues such as social security, health care, immigration, and election reform.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Final grade of 'A' in all required 10th grade Social Studies classes or an 'A' or 'B' in Honors World Affairs.
2. Recommendation of Social Studies teacher.
3. Students must schedule Honors American Government and Honors Modern America History/Cultures.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY **No. 2011**
Full Year/Full Time **AP Wt.**
Grades 11, 12 Phase IV **Credit 1.5**

The Advanced Placement United States History course provides an in-depth study of the major social, economic, political, and technological forces at work in American history. The course is designed to mirror the content and difficulty that can be expected in a typical college survey course. Much reading, discussion, analytical thinking, and evaluation are required. This course meets seven periods per week.

Criteria for Selection -

1. 3.0 or higher academic average **or**
2. 'A' grades in 9th and 10th grade Social Studies courses, **and**
3. Recommendation of 10th and/or 11th grade Social Studies teacher(s).

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY **No. 2012**
Full Year/Full Time **AP Wt.**
Grades 11, 12 Phase IV **Credit 1.5**

This course offers a comprehensive view of European History from the Renaissance (1350) to present day. This challenging, college-level course demands a high level of

analytical thinking, class discussion of primary sources, and frequent writing assignments. Major areas of study include politics, economics and diplomacy, as well as special emphasis on the arts, philosophy, and culture. This course meets seven periods per week.

Criteria for Selection -

1. 3.0 or higher academic average.
2. Recommendation from 10th or 11th grade Social Studies teacher(s).

ECONOMICS **No. 2511**
Semester/Full Time **Credit .5**
Grades 11, 12 Phases II, III, IV

Economics explores the principles and problems of the American economy and offers a review of the consumer and producer as decision-makers. Students will study problems of employment, inflation, supply & demand, monetary & fiscal policy, rational analysis, international trade, and the market economy based upon private enterprise. The course will include a stock market simulation that is competitive with students from other high schools from across the state.

Criteria for Selection - None.

HONORS AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY: 1945 - Present **No. 2611**
Semester/Full Time **Honors Wt.**
Grades 11, 12 Phases III, IV **Credit .5**

Honors American Foreign Policy: 1945 - Present, is an honors level course designed to provide the college-bound student with training in the critical analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making skills necessary for lifetime learning. In addition, the course presents extensive background of recent American Foreign Policy to enable modern citizens to make informed decisions about current international issues.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Grades of an 'A' or 'B' in previous Social Studies courses.
2. Recommendation of Social Studies teacher.

HONORS HISTORY OF EUROPE AND RUSSIA: 1945 - Present **No. 2712**
Semester/Full Time **Honors Wt.**
Grades 11, 12 Phases III, IV **Credit .5**

The major emphasis of this course is placed on key historical problems facing Europe and Russia in the period following World War II: the reconstruction following World War II, the Cold War, political and economic rivalry between Russia and the Eastern Bloc versus Western Europe and the United States 1945-1953. It covers the peaceful coexistence and brinkmanship 1953-1969, détente and improving relations between Eastern and Western Europe 1969-1980, the final decline of communism ending with its collapse in Europe 1981-1992. There is an examination of Western European unity, the political and economic relationships among the European nations, and a comparative study of the democratic parliamentary systems in Western Europe. The Soviet

System in Eastern Europe and the evolutionary development of the economic and political systems in Russia and Eastern Europe 1989-present are reviewed. There is an emphasis on the new age of a global economy and interdependence.

Criteria for Selection -

1. The recommendation of a Social Studies teacher.
2. 'A' or 'B' in Social Studies.

**HONORS HISTORY OF
EAST ASIA: 1945 - Present**
Semester/Full Time
Grades 11, 12 Phases III, IV

No. 2711
Honors Wt.
Credit .5

This one-semester survey course covers the historical problems and developments of modern East Asia with an emphasis on the histories of Japan, North and South Korea, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Indonesia. The course will examine current political, democratic and communist experiences of the region and analyze the role of the U.S. in East Asia and the cultural impact of U.S./East Asian relations.

Criteria for Selection -

1. The recommendation of a Social Studies teacher.
2. Grades of 'A' or 'B' in previous Social Studies courses.

LAW AND JUSTICE
Semester/Full Time
Grades 11, 12 Phases I, II, III, IV

No. 2412
Credit .5

Law and Justice provides practical information and problem solving opportunities that develop in students the knowledge and skills necessary for survival in our legal society. A variety of films, role-plays, mock trials, and small group exercises are utilized. The course includes a visit to criminal court and a juvenile detention center.

Criteria for Selection - None.

MULTICULTURAL EXPERIENCE
Grades 11, 12 Phases II, III, IV

No. 2610
Credit .5

This course is designed to promote a holistic understanding of the richness that multicultural differences offer including an exploration of different cultural perspectives and customs. A historical to present day view of biases, prejudices, and stereotypes will be analyzed. Students will experience local multicultural activities and access local community resources. The focus on the pluralistic nature of the U.S., in conjunction with its free political system will enable students to understand that the United States has special significance to the rest of the world. The richness of the course content will develop a sense of global connectedness, unity, and sameness of all people.

Criteria for Selection - None.

SOCIOLOGY
Semester/Full Time
Grade 12 Phases II, III, IV

No. 2911
Credit .5

Sociology is the study of culture, society, and groups within a society. Students will learn about the causes and

effects of contemporary social problems confronting society. Through discussions of basic sociological concepts, students will see how human beings become social creatures and how they establish patterns of behavior that make society work.

Criteria for Selection - None.

**FUNDAMENTALS OF
DEMOCRACY II**

No. 2212

Full Year/Full Time
Grade 12 Phase I

Credit 1.0

This course is designed to support the needs of 12th grade students with reading and writing difficulties. Students study contemporary American culture by examining the American democratic process. Basic political, social, and economic principles are examined in the study of contemporary local, state, and national events and issues. The primary focus of the course is to assist the student in building and strengthening their reading, writing, listening, speaking, and study skills.

Criteria for Selection -

Students must be recommended by a School Counselor and a Social Studies teacher.

PSYCHOLOGY
Semester/Full Time
Grade 12 Phases III, IV

No. 2612
Credit .5

Psychology examines the complex nature of the human mind and behavior. Major areas of concentration include: psychological models, states of consciousness, learning, personality, and the causes/treatment of abnormal behavior. A variety of assignments and activities are used to enhance the students' comprehension of important concepts and theories.

Criteria for Selection -

1. Grades of 'A' or 'B' in previous Social Studies courses.
2. Recommendation of a previous Social Studies teacher.