

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

The goals of the History and Social Science program are to develop students' understanding of the political, social, economic, and cultural development of today's society and to prepare students for membership in society as intelligent decision-makers. Students are introduced to the vital themes of history and emphasis is placed on the use of history's habits of mind. Students select courses according to their skills and abilities; instructional strategies are designed to maximize the strengths of each student.

World History (Honors/Pre IB)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: Current teacher recommendation

This course is recommended for the highly motivated student who has a keen interest in history. The student must also demonstrate superior writing ability, language usage, and reading comprehension skills. Through the use of varied textual readings and research, students will be introduced to the key historical developments from the Age of Global Encounters to the Modern Age. Students will focus on themes in analyzing historical events and personalities. These themes may include the impact of politics, ideas, economics, cultural developments, religion, technology, and the environment on world history. All skill building is done within the historical context of the course. In order to meet the rigorous demands for this course, a summer reading program is suggested and may be required.

World History (Advanced, Academic)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: none

World History is the study of the impact of political, economic, geographic, social and cultural forces on the history of the world from the Age of Global Encounters to the Modern Age. Students will acquire the historical knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to make rational and informed decisions about economic, cultural and political questions facing our interdependent world. The course focuses on the development of the following skills: note-taking, listening, outlining, reading comprehension, writing

exercises, document analysis, library skills, research and critical decision-making.

World History (Studies)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: none

The World History Studies program is designed to introduce students to historical issues from the Age of Global Encounters to the present. This program is designed primarily for students who need further development of reading comprehension and writing skills. The course is designed to help students improve their skill levels in order to meet the demands of further study in history.

US History 1 (Honors/Pre IB)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: World History

This is a challenging course designed to attract highly motivated students of history. The program covers a broad body of information from our European roots to the 20th Century and is designed to prepare students for the International Baccalaureate examinations and the Advanced Placement test in history. Students will have extensive experience in analyzing documents and answering document based essay questions. Sophisticated reading assignments, writing assignments, and a research paper are requirements of the course. Both a thematic and chronological approach are utilized, with emphasis placed on the development of understanding of the political, economic, cultural and social changes that took place in American history. An IB historical investigation will be completed by all students.

US History 1 (Advanced, Academic)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: World History

The US History I program deals with the study of American History from its European background to 1900. Both a thematic and chronological approach are utilized, with emphasis placed on the development of understanding of the political, economic, cultural and social changes that took place. Activities included in the program are designed to bring the contemporary scene into focus. Students utilize a variety of primary and secondary sources to develop writing, thinking and research skills necessary in both advanced education and effective citizenship. Students are assisted in their growth in reading and study skills to assure understanding of the materials.

thinking, and research skills necessary for both college preparation and effective citizenship.

US History 1 (Studies)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: World History

The course deals with American history from its European background to 1900. The studies program allows for more topical and thematic approaches to course content in order to develop strategies that allow for development of students' skills and learning strategies. The course will focus on the strengthening of reading comprehension and writing in history as students make use of primary and secondary sources.

US History 2 (IB/AP)

5.0 Credits

Prerequisite: US History 1 Honors/Pre IB, staff recommendation suggested

This course fulfills three requirements: First, it completes the chronology of the US History I Honors/Pre IB program. Here, highly motivated students pursue a rigorous college-level survey of historical events, concepts, interpretations and themes in American history from the beginnings of the Progressive Movement to the present. Secondly, in preparation for the Advanced Placement US History test, students will assess historical materials in American history, evaluate the evidence and interpretations, and defend their research through a variety of essays. Finally, the IB component will prepare students for 20th Century topics and the high level of historical analysis necessary to undertake IB History of Europe in the senior year. Motivated students will be required to complete specific writing tasks at a college level.

US History 2 (Advanced, Academic)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: US History 1

The US History II courses seek to continue the thematic and chronological approach to the study of American History from the Progressive Movement to the present. It is a continuation of the efforts to develop those ties that bind us together as a nation. The course attempts to develop an understanding of the background of significant issues and events that have and will continue to shape our history. The reading of primary and secondary sources is included. Writing is an integral part of this program. In Academic US History II assistance in reading, writing, and analytical skills will be offered through short supplemental readings. Students will use a variety of primary and secondary sources to develop writing,

US History 2 (Studies)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: US History 1

Focusing on the study of American history from the Progressive Period to the present day, this is a continuation of the approaches utilized in the US History I Studies program developing alternative strategies to the understanding of our past and preparation for effective citizenship. The program allows for more topical and thematic approaches to course content in order to develop strategies that allow for development of students' skills and learning strategies.

Full Year Course Electives

Economics (IB, Advanced)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: Junior standing/U.S. History 1

This course is designed as an introduction to the discipline of Economics. Through the use of a variety of textual readings, current topics, teacher-led discussions as well as historical case studies, the student will be introduced to the major topics of Economics. These topics will include micro-economics and macro-economics, as well as international and developmental economic issues.

NOTE: The IB level of Economics will be committed to preparing students for the International Baccalaureate examination. Grades will be determined by internal school assessment and external evaluation by the IB organization.

European History (IB)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: US History 2

The International Baccalaureate history program is intended to provide a framework within which a broad perspective of the major issues affecting the development of the European continent may be studied. In addition, students are expected to develop an appreciation and understanding of history as a discipline, including the nature and diversity of its sources, methods, and interpretations. The course presents a broad spectrum of modern history; it also undertakes a more specialized view of contemporary history, and covers the 19th Century to the modern period.

Full Year Course Electives (continued)

European History (AP)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: US History 2

This course aims to provide students with an opportunity to master the basic chronology, major events, and trends in European history from 1450 to the contemporary period. It will foster, through an intensive study of specific topics, an understanding of the political, social, economic, and intellectual forces in the historical process. Students will learn to read historical narrative with discrimination and to express ideas coherently and precisely.

NOTE: The AP level of European History will be committed to preparing students for the Advanced Placement examination. The course syllabus will be determined by the College Board (CEEB).

Human Behavior and Development (Advanced)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: Junior standing /U.S. History 1

This course is an introduction to the systematic study of human behavior and will focus on essential concepts and theories as seen through five key perspectives: biological, psycho-dynamic, humanistic, cognitive, and behavioral. A number of activities that apply concepts of human behavior to everyday living are provided to increase the enthusiasm and understanding of the discipline. Note-taking, outside reading, research, group dynamics and discussions are an integral part of the course.

Psychology (IB)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: Junior standing /U.S. 1

A scientific approach is used to develop an understanding of human behavior and experience. Students will analyze and interpret empirical studies to develop a cross-cultural understanding of the application of psychology from the biological, cognitive, and learning perspectives. The role of the psychologist and research methods will be emphasized as students complete an independent research project as part of the IB curriculum.

Research Methods in Psychology (IB)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: Psychology IB

This Higher Level course continues the compulsory core of Psychology IB, including the Biological, Behavioral, Cognitive, and Humanistic approaches as well as the study of two optional subject areas to be

chosen by the teacher. Recognizing that psychology is an empirical science, students examine research designs, learn elementary descriptive and inferential statistics and engage in practical work composed of an experimental study following IB guidelines. Students begin this research in Psychology IB and at the conclusion of this course will refine their research experiment for submission to the IBO.

United States Government and Politics (AP, Advanced/WMC only)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: Junior standing/U.S. History 1

This course is designed for students who have an interest in the American political system. It is geared towards those who wish to fully understand the origins of political thought, the origins of the American political system and the development of the Constitution, the various institutions of government, political beliefs and processes, and the role of the media. The course will also cover the ideological diversity of the American public and encourage civic participation. It is a course of study that examines past developments and brings them into a contemporary light.

NOTE: The AP level of US Government and Politics will be committed to preparing students for the Advanced Placement examination. The course syllabus will be determined by the College Board (CEEB).

Western Civilization (Advanced)

5.0 credits

Prerequisite: Junior standing/U.S. History 1

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of European history from ancient civilizations to the Modern period and to help them relate what they know about American and World history to economic, political, social and intellectual developments in Europe. Both thematic and chronological approaches are used and emphasis is placed upon learner-centered, multi-disciplinary activities, strategies and assessments. In addition, stress is placed on developing students' skills at creating questions that lead to the exploration of relationships between various kinds of social science data.

This course is designed for college-bound students who wish to expand what they know in the areas of history, economics, philosophy, politics, art and technology, and to further understand the inter-relationships among these disciplines. These students should be willing to work at developing their thinking, writing and learning skills.

Semester Course Electives

American Legal System (Advanced)

2.5 credits 1 semester course

Prerequisite: Junior standing/U.S. History 1

This course is designed to introduce students to the general workings of the American criminal justice and civil justice systems. It is a study of the diverse evolution of criminal and civil justice policies, law enforcement, the court and corrections. Included are in-depth studies of criminal justice procedures, constitutional/case law decisions that affect everyday life in America and contemporary controversial issues of crime and justice within the United States. The program includes on-site visitations and presentations by the various professionals within our criminal justice system.

Anthropology (Advanced)

2.5 credits 1 semester course

Prerequisite: Junior standing/U.S. History 1

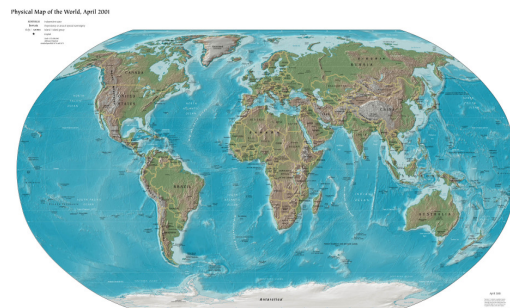
This course seeks to explain and understand the origins of human culture. Using basic archeological and field research techniques, students will study the development of world civilizations from the earliest people to modern society. Students will compare and contrast the broad variety of belief systems, social structures, modes of communication, and cultural traditions which have evolved worldwide. An additional component of the course will be to explore cultural geography and its impact on the development of societies.

Contemporary World Issues (Advanced)

2.5 credits 1 semester course

Prerequisite: Junior standing/U.S. History 1

This course will examine major international issues and controversies. Topics include the state, sovereignty, war, power, nationalism, imperialism, security dilemmas, interdependence, international regimes, and ethical issues. Students will examine American foreign policy within a global network and also focus on the workings of the United Nations. Using contemporary United States foreign policy and historical precedent, students will evaluate the unique role of the United States in the critical issues facing the



world.

Sociology (Advanced)

2.5 credits 1 semester course

Prerequisite: Junior standing/U.S. History 1

Sociology is designed to have the student develop an understanding of the ways sociologists investigate, describe and analyze social life. In addition, it is intended that the student develop a feeling for the excitement and significance of sociological research.

This course will explore the nature of human relationships in a complex society. Societal needs and the responses of collective behavior will be analyzed. Some of the major themes studied are: socialization, social institutions, social stratification, and changes in the social order. Extensive reading and writing assignments are an integral part of this course. By integrating both the practical and theoretical sides of sociology, it is intended that the student develop a broad overview of the basic nature and scope of the discipline and examine several social problems facing our society.

Gilder Lehrman History Scholars Program

The West Morris Regional High School District has entered into a partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. By presenting a four-year sequence of historical studies, our schools will be able to offer interested students a Gilder Lehrman certificate in American History. Students interested in this certificate need to enroll in a particular sequence of courses, and produce a historical research paper by the time they are seniors. A Gilder Lehrman History certificate is available to any student who wishes to pursue it. This partnership offers both our students and faculty many advantages through their collections and programs at The New York Historical Society. Students interested in a Gilder Lehrman History certificate should speak to both their history teacher and guidance counselor.

NOTE: Incoming ninth grade students already enrolled in World History can qualify for the Gilder Lehrman certificate.