

## Social Studies Course Descriptions

### Academic Modern World History

Course Number 3540

Credits: 5    Grades 9    One Year Subject

This course is intended to present to the students an understanding of the chronological events, time periods and geographical areas that are necessary to the study of Modern World History. The content of this course covers the period from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the contemporary period focusing on the major cultural, social, economic, political, and religious developments. The purpose of the course is to have the student see the connection between American History and World History and to see the inter-connections of events throughout history from one world area to another. Many of our traditions, customs, institutions and beliefs are based on our immigrant heritage and our interaction with other nations. The intent of the course is to prepare the student to understand the contemporary world by acquiring a global historical background. Specific areas of study will include the rise of Modern Europe, the age of Imperialism and Modernization, the periods of wars and conflicts and contemporary world problems.

### Honors Modern World History

Course Number 3541

Credits: 5    Grade 9    One Year Subject

Prerequisite: Demonstrated aptitude and superior achievement. Recommendation by middle school administration and the guidance department.

The first semester covers the significant changes in Europe starting in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The topics include: the Age of Monarchs, the rise of National States, the Age of Reason, the period of Revolution and Reaction, the Industrial Revolution and the political changes during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The second semester includes a world view study of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries dealing with the nations and empires of both European and non-European powers, the world wars and conflicts and the rise of new ideologies throughout each century. A specific area of study will deal with the Modern Contemporary World and its problems, such as the Superpowers, War and Peace, Area Conflicts, Global Wealth and Resources and Human Rights.

### Academic American History 1

Course Number 3620

Credits: 5    Grades 10    One Year Subject

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Academic Modern World History (3540) or Honors Modern World History (3541)

The first semester covers the founding of the United States and the American Constitutional System. Study includes the organization and functioning of our early governments (local, state, and national), the democratic processes and the successive problems of democratic growth in the development of the American society and culture.

The second semester focuses on the emergence of the American nation as a unified entity and the constitutional crises that led to civil war. Concerns of this semester are industrial, social, economic, political and religious as the American culture reaches the centennial point.

## **Honors American History 1**

Course Number 3650

Credits: 5 Grade 10 One Year Subject

Prerequisite: Demonstrated aptitude and superior achievement.

Study begins with an examination of the British colonial system and its effects on the American society with special emphasis on the 1763-1775-time period. The course continues with the chronological study of the American Revolution, the period of the Articles of Confederation government, and the Constitutional period with an in-depth study of the Constitution.

The remaining portion of the year emphasizes the growth and development of the American society in political, economic and social terms and the development of a foreign policy throughout the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A chronological approach is followed by studying the administration of presidents Washington to Lincoln and the major themes of the time period, including the development of the political party system, American foreign policy issues, examples of “Manifest Destiny”, the development of Sectionalism, the causes of the Civil War and the period of Reconstruction.

The student is expected to become proficient in all areas of course content: test-taking, written assignments, reading of primary and secondary historical material and research papers

## **Academic American History 2**

Course Number 3720

Credits: 5 Grades 11 One Year Subject

Prerequisite: Successful completion Academic American History 1 (3620) or Honors American History 1 (3650)

This course is a natural continuation of American History I, and includes our nation’s history from 1865 to the present.

The course is approached chronologically with emphasis placed on the following topical areas: the Reconstruction era, the Second Industrial Revolution, the closing of the West, the Progressive era, the Expansionist era, World War I and II, Post War period and the development of the Cold War, domestic and foreign policy and the changing world of the 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and contemporary events.

## **Electives**

### **Sociology**

Course Number 3840

Credits: 5 Grades 11-12 One Year Subject

Prerequisite: Demonstrated aptitude, interest and achievement in the Social Studies curriculum

The first semester will emphasize both basic sociology and culture. In the study of basic sociology, socialization is the investigation of the process by which a person becomes a social being, or how a person becomes what he is and how he behaves. Included are such topics as the effects of extreme isolation, development of the self-concept, the social self, a concept of morality, and an understanding of norms and roles. There are many experiments and field studies to personalize the content. Then, going from the individual to the larger societal unit is culture: the way of life of a given people. The study includes: social practices which can be found in all cultures, the idea that all people feel their own way of life is superior to all others and the need for cultural understanding, both nationally and internationally.

Problems selected for in-depth study in the second semester are: the nature of prejudice, racial and ethnic relations, criminology, social class, marriage and the family. Specific topics and content included will depend on the interests of the class.

### **Introduction to Economics**

Course Number 3850

Credits: 5 Grades 11-12 One Year Subject

Prerequisite: Demonstrated aptitude, interest and achievement in the Social Studies curriculum

An economics course is offered as an elective for eleventh and twelfth grade students as an introduction to the principles that form the backbone of the U.S. economy and our role in the international economy. Economic decision making is fundamental to all fields of endeavor and this course will provide students with a basic vocabulary, an introduction to microeconomic and macroeconomic theories, and the awareness of current issues facing the U.S. economy. Effective economic decision making is more likely to occur if students understand and can apply economic concepts to issues that will arise.

### **Anthropology**

Course Number 3880

Credits: 2.5 Grades 11 - 12 One Semester Subject

Prerequisite: Demonstrated aptitude, interest and achievement in the Social Studies curriculum.

An Anthropology course is offered as an elective for eleventh and twelfth grade students as an introduction to the theories of the origin of man and how cultures have developed throughout the world. The course will offer insights into the variety of human societies and the factors that have encouraged their development. The goal of the course is to provide students with an opportunity to understand the valuable contributions made by various groups throughout the world, to recognize certain universal traits among us, and to evaluate actions that individuals take as regards prejudice and discrimination.

### **Contemporary Issues in World Affairs**

Course Number 3891

Credits: 2.5 Grade 10-12 One Semester Course

Prerequisite: Demonstrated aptitude, interest and achievement in the Social Studies curriculum.

A Contemporary Issues course is offered as an elective for tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students as an introduction to the complexities of the modern world. The course will offer insights into current issues facing various regions of the world as determined by current events. The goal of the course is to provide background on events that occur now and to provide insight as to the role the United States takes in these events.

### **Advanced Placement American History**

Course Number 3890

Credits: 5 Grade 11 One Year Subject

Prerequisite: Demonstrated aptitude and superior achievement.

Advanced placement American History is a college level course which has been designed for those students who have exhibited exceptional ability, skills, interest and achievement in Social Studies. The

student who enrolls in this course must be willing to extend oneself beyond the norm of a typical class environment.

This course begins with a brief review of the content of the Honors American History 1 course. A chronological study combined with a topical approach is the primary focus as the student progresses through the study of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century concentrating on the period of Reconstruction and the economic development of the American society. The coming of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brings Industrial, Social, and Economic Development and Change, International Expansion, the causes and consequences of the World Wars, and Foreign Policy issues affecting the American Society. The student is expected to become proficient in all areas of course content: test-taking, written assignments, reading of primary and secondary historical material and research papers.

### **The Holocaust/Genocide and Human Behavior**

Course Number 3851

Credits: 2.5    Grade 11-12    One Semester Subject

Prerequisite: Demonstrated aptitude, interest and achievement in the Social Studies curriculum.

The Holocaust is one of the turning points in human history, whose influence in our lives remains some sixty years after the end of World War II. This course builds on the introduction to the Holocaust and genocide studied in U.S. History II and addresses the historical, sociological and psychological implications of the Holocaust as well as its impact on human behavior. Among these are: its origins, the role of anti-Semitism and racism; who were the perpetrators, victims and bystanders; patterns of resistance; the response of the United States and other countries; and the universal lessons for today. Additionally, case studies of the Armenian Genocide, the Cambodian Genocide, the Rwandan Genocide and the Sudanese Genocide will be studied within this framework.