

Upper School History Curriculum

World History I

The ninth grade World History I course begins with Pre–History and continues to the Middle Ages and the roots of Early Modern world society. Students learn historical developments across all continents and deal with the major world cultures that continue to shape society today. Emphasis is placed on understanding world cultures in the context of political, economic, and social change over time. Examples of time periods and cultures studied include but are not limited to the Neolithic Age, Egypt; Mesopotamia, Early South Asia, Dynasty China, Persia, Ancient Greece, Hindu India, Byzantium, and Vikings. Students in World History I use secondary and primary sources, hone research writing skills, strengthen public speaking skills, and learn multi–media software. The primary text for the course is World History: Peoples & Nations published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Honors World History I

Prerequisite: An average of B or better in Eighth Grade Honors English

Honors World History I students study topics similar to those in the World History I while being required to complete more extensive reading and writing assignments in preparation for the Advanced Placement European History course. Students are expected to read independently as well as discuss and write with sophistication. Students learn historical developments across all continents and deal with the major world cultures that continue to shape society today. Emphasis is placed on understanding world cultures in the context of political, economic, and social change over time. Examples of time periods and cultures studies include but are not limited to the emergence of city-states in Mesopotamia; the kingdoms of ancient Egypt; and the peoples and empires of the Near East, Hebrews, Israelites, Assyrians and Persians. In their study of Greece, students begin with Early Greece, learn about the Greek city-states, and the culture and society of classical Greece and Hellenistic World. Honors World History I students also study the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, the development and spread of Christianity, the rise of Islam, the Middle Ages, and the rise of European kingdoms. Additional areas of study include the Crusades, and the beginnings of the Italian Renaissance. The primary text for the course is Western Civilization published by Thompson Learning.

World History II

The sophomore level World History II course is designed to present a survey of the flow of world history in general and Western civilization in particular from roughly AD 1300s to the late 20th century. The recurring themes of politics, social constructs, military power, economics, technology, language, religion, and education are used as the

framework for comparison and contrast among different cultures and civilizations. Examples of time periods and cultures studied include, but are not limited to, the social and cultural developments of the European Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution, and Enlightenment as well as the causes and effects of the political revolutions in England, America, and France in the 18th and 19th centuries. Students study the causes and effects of the Industrial Revolution, World War I, World War II, and the Cold War as well as the results of decolonization especially as it relates to Africa. Students in World History II use secondary and primary sources, hone research writing skills, strengthen public speaking skills, and use multi-media software. The primary text for the course is World History: Peoples & Nations published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.

Advanced Placement European History

Prerequisite: An average of B or better in Honors World History I or special permission

Advanced Placement European History is a sophomore-level course that is equivalent to a college level European History course. One of the objectives of the course is to prepare students to take the College Board AP European History exam in the spring. Students are expected to read independently as well as discuss and write with sophistication. AP European History provides a basic narrative of the intellectual, political, social, religious, artistic, and economic history of Europe from approximately 1450 to the present. Examples of time periods and cultures studied include but are not limited to The Renaissance, The Reformation and the Catholic Counter Reformation, the Thirty Years' War, Absolutism and Constitutionalism, the Scientific Revolution, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, the Revolutions of 1830-1832, European Bourgeoisie Revolutions of 1848, the Russian Revolutions, World War I, the rise of Fascism and Nazism, World War II, the Cold War, the European Union, and problems in Eastern Europe. The primary text for the course is The Western Heritage since 1300 published by Pearson Prentice Hall.

United States History

United States History is a junior level course which presents the scope of United States history from the pre-Columbian era to the modern day. Significant themes include the major political, economic, social, cultural, diplomatic, and intellectual developments during the period of time encompassed by the course. Significant historical interpretations and methodologies are introduced. Note taking and critical reading and writing skills as well as research skills using both primary and secondary sources are stressed. Students enhance public speaking skills with class presentations. A sampling of specific topics studied includes the American Revolution, the Early Republic, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Progressive Era, the Great Depression, American involvement in World War II, the post-World War II era, and an appreciation for the contributions of the diverse people that comprise the American nation. The college-level text for the course is The American Nation: A History of the United States published by Longman.

Advanced Placement United States History

Prerequisite: An average of B or better in Honors English II or Advanced Placement European History

Advanced Placement United States History is a junior level course that is equivalent to a college-level United States History course. One of the objectives of the course is to prepare students to take the College Board AP United States History exam in the spring. Students are expected to read independently as well as discuss and write with sophistication. The major themes and topics presented in the United States History course from the pre-Columbian era to the modern day are presented in greater depth and detail and at a more rapid pace. AP U.S. History students also study the affluence of the United States during the post-Cold War period, the Sixties, the Triumph of Conservatism from 1969-1988, Globalization, and September 11. Additionally, students complete multiple research assignments throughout the year and work extensively with primary source documents. The art of answering a document-based question is practiced throughout the course as well as the writing of traditional essay responses. The primary college level text for the course is Give Me Liberty: An American History published by W. W. Norton & Co. Inc. and is supplemented with United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination published by Amsco.

United States Government

Prerequisite: United States History

United States government is a one semester senior level course designed to present a thorough study of the American political system and an introduction to various world governmental structures. The United States Constitution is studied in detail with emphasis placed upon the basic foundations of the American government and the inalienable rights of American citizens. Students also learn the nature and functions of political parties, analyze voting segments and behaviors, assess public opinion polls and lobbying techniques, and analyze state and local governments in the United States. Additionally, students study public policy and American foreign policy. Special attention is given to current events concerning the political spectrum. The primary text for the course is United States Government: Democracy in Action published by Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

Advanced Placement United States Government

Prerequisite: An average of B or better in Advanced Placement United States History or special permission. Enrollment in Honors Economics is required.

Advanced Placement United States Government is a one-semester senior level course that is equivalent to a college-level United States Government course. One of the objectives of the course is to prepare students to take the College Board AP United States Government exam in the spring. Students read independently as well as discuss and write with sophistication. The major themes and topics presented in the United States Government course are presented in greater depth and detail and at a more rapid pace.

AP U.S. Government students must also keep a court case notebook in which they maintain a running list of all court cases identified in both class lectures and in readings. The primary college-level text for the course is We the People: An Introduction to American Politics published by W. W. Norton and is supplemented with Kaplan's AP U.S. Government & Politics from Simon publishers.

Economics

Prerequisite: United States History

Economics is a one-semester senior level course designed to present a thorough study of macroeconomic and microeconomic theory. Microeconomic topics are studied with emphasis on market structures and pricing decisions as they relate to individual firms. Macroeconomic topics include national income analysis, fiscal policy, monetary policy, and the banking system. Special attention is given to current economic developments in the U.S. as well as those concerning the global economy. The text for the course is Economic Principles and Practices published by Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

Honors Economics

Prerequisite: An average of B or better in Advanced Placement United States History or special permission. Enrollment in Advanced Placement United States Government is required.

Honors Economics is a one-semester senior level course designed to present a thorough study of macroeconomic and microeconomic theory at a more in-depth level and more rapid pace than the Economics course. Honors students are expected to read independently as well as discuss and write with sophistication. Microeconomic topics are studied with emphasis on market structures and pricing decisions as they relate to individual firms. Macroeconomic topics include national income analysis, fiscal policy, monetary policy, and the banking system. Special attention is given to current economic developments in the U.S. as well as those concerning the global economy. The text for the course is Economics: Theory and Practice published by Wiley.

History Department Electives:

Anthropology and Archaeology

The Anthropology and Archeology course is designed to expose students to the variety of human cultures that have developed throughout the world and to gain an appreciation for human diversity. Topics covered include a thorough study of culture - the definition of the term, how culture is shared and learned, cultural changes, and both adaptive and maladaptive cultures. Students learn the difference between applied and pure anthropology and discuss the ethics of applied anthropology. The study of Anthropological Theory includes evolutionism, diffusionism, American Historicism, functionalism, psychological anthropology, neoevolutionism, French structuralism,

ethnoscience, and cultural materialism. Other topics include kinship and descent, marriage and the family, religion, and art. Students are guided in conducting surveys and pursuing ethnographic field work. In the spring semester students experience methods and practices of archeological field work by participating in an archaeological dig. The instructor provides course materials.

Survey of World Religions

Survey of World Religions is designed to study the origins, history, and basic tenets of major world religions objectively. Students study religion from an academic perspective; no judgments are made regarding particular belief systems. Students become aware of scholarly approaches to religion and learn about related philosophies. A study of the religious histories of such ancient civilizations as Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece serves as a foundation for the study of current world religions. Students study Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and the religions of China and Japan in depth. Humanistic philosophies and their influence on religion are also addressed. The text for the course is Ways to the Center: An Introduction to World Religions by Thomson publishers.