

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The goals of the Social Studies Department are: (1) to assist students in examining values and eventually to become committed to those of our democratic society; (2) to aid students in identifying with the United States and to develop a refined sense of patriotism; (3) to acquaint students with the world around them in an effort to help them better understand their position in the world; (4) to teach the skill of class discussion not only to contribute to the knowledge of the class but also to listen to and respect the opinions of others; (5) to teach the methods of doing research, evaluate sources of information, and reach intelligent conclusions; and, (6) to appraise the reality and importance of the world's cultural and pluralistic nature.

Department Chair – Mr. Gary Groff – 402.557.3367

Number of Credits Required for Graduation:

Seven

Required Courses:

US History 1-2

Human Geography

Economics and Financial Literacy

Modern World History 1-2

American Government

Honors Courses:

Honors US History 1-2

Honors Human Geography

Honors Economics and Financial Literacy

Honors Academic Decathlon 1-2

Honors Introduction to World Religions

AP Courses:

AP Human Geography 1-2

AP Macroeconomics

AP Microeconomics

AP World History 1-2

AP United States Government and Politics

AP Comparative Government and Politics

AP United States History 1-2

AP Psychology 1-2

Elective Courses:

African American History

Anthropology

International Studies

Law and Juvenile Justice

Omaha History

Psychology

Sociology

US HISTORY 1-2

This course is a study of United States history from 1914 to the present. Students address the social, economic, and political development of the nation and relate it to both past and present. Instruction is organized around the themes of geography, history, economics, culture, and the elements of citizenship. Students investigate these themes using textbooks, newspapers, novels, primary sources, and technology.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 1 per semester

Grade Level: 9

HONORS US HISTORY 1-2

This course is a study of United States history from 1914 to present. Students address the social, economic, and political development of the nation and relate it to both past and present. Instruction is organized around the themes of geography, history, economics, culture, and the elements of citizenship. Students investigate these themes using textbooks, newspapers, novels, primary sources, and technology. Students are required to research and analyze specific concepts in United States history and relate it to current events.

Honors students are expected to have above average writing skills, the ability to keep current with reading assignments and the motivation to complete all classroom assignments. Concurrent enrollment in Honors English is highly recommended.

Prerequisites: Permission

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 1 per semester

Grade Level: 9

AMERICAN STUDIES

American Studies is a one-semester elective that can be used to recover a failed credit from US History 1 or 2. This thematic course will cover major American History topics from US History semester courses. Topics may include: civil rights, expansion, America at war, economic change and prosperity, and/or the growth and challenges of democracy.

Prerequisites: Must have failed US History 1 or 2

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

This course provides an effective method for asking questions about places on earth and their relationships to the people who live in them. The geography, economics, history, culture, and human interaction with the environment will be studied and analyzed to provide an understanding of the world in which we live. This is a semester course.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10

HONORS HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

This course provides an effective method for asking questions about places on earth and their relationships to the people who live in them. The geography, economics, history, culture, and human interaction with the environment will be studied and analyzed to provide an understanding of the world in which we live. This course includes more in-depth research and analysis about the relationship between humans and the environment including political and societal impacts on the world environment. This is a semester course. Honors students are expected to have above average writing skills, the ability to keep current with reading assignments and the motivation to complete all classroom assignments. Concurrent enrollment in Honors English is highly recommended.

Prerequisites: Permission of department chairman

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10

INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

This course examines the key concepts of economics through study of various sectors of market systems. Fundamentals, micro, macro and international economic concepts will be presented and studied. Emphasis is given the role of the citizen in America's market structure.

Prerequisite: None

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10

HONORS INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

This course examines the key concepts of economics through study of various sectors of market systems. Fundamentals, micro, macro and international economic concepts will be presented and studied. Emphasis is given the role of the citizen in America's market structure. Students are required to research and analyze the structure and function of economics in the United States today..

Concurrent enrollment in Honors English is highly recommended.

Prerequisite: Permission of department chair

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 1-2

This course emphasizes the importance of geography as a field of inquiry. Geographic concepts emphasized throughout the course are location, space, scale, pattern, regionalization and place. An outcome of the course is the student's awareness of the relevance of academic geography to everyday life and decision making.

Prerequisites: Permission of department

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 1 per semester

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

AP MACROECONOMICS

AP MICROECONOMICS

These sequential one semester courses prepare students for the Advanced Placement Economics exams through rigorous and in-depth study of both macroeconomics and microeconomics.

Prerequisites: Permission of department

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 1 per semester

Grade Level: 11, 12

MODERN WORLD HISTORY 1-2

This course explores the culture and history of people from 1000 C.E. to the present. As students examine the choices and decisions of the past, they are better able to confront today's problems and choices with a deeper awareness of the alternatives before them, and the likely consequences of each.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 1 per semester

Grade Level: 11

AP WORLD HISTORY 1-2

The AP World History course provides a clear framework of six chronological periods viewed through the lens of related concepts and course themes, along with a set of skills that define what it means to think historically. Students spend less time on factual

recall, more time on learning essential concepts, and develop historical thinking skills. A number of writing activities, including a research project each semester to prepare for the AP Exam, are required. Concurrent enrollment in AP English Language and Composition and AP World History is highly recommended.

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Prerequisites: Permission of department

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 1 per semester

Grade Level: 11, 12

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

This semester course addresses the theories and practices that are the basis of our nation's form of government. Students analyze the structure, operations, and functions of national, state, and local government to better prepare themselves to practice participatory citizenship as related to their responsibilities and rights as citizens.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 12

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

These sequential one semester courses explore US government and politics and comparative government and politics and prepare students for the Advanced Placement exams.

Prerequisites: Permission of department

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 1 per semester

Grade Level: 11, 12

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY 1-2

This course provides students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to evaluate issues and themes in United States history, examine historical evidence, and engage in critical writing. A year-long independent research project is assigned. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement American History exam.

Prerequisites: Permission of department

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 1 per semester

Grade Level: 11, 12

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

This course examines the African American experience including history, culture, contributions, and contemporary issues.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

ANTHROPOLOGY

This course introduces the concepts and tools of understanding human behavior and origins. Anthropologists focus on the interconnections and interdependence of all aspects of the human experience, past and present. Students will learn how anthropologists avoid bias to study humans through the fields of Cultural Anthropology, Physical Anthropology, Archaeology, and Linguistics.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

This course provides students with the knowledge and skills to function effectively in an increasingly interdependent world. Societal issues having both a global and future orientation will be highlighted.

Prerequisites Must have failed World History 1 or 2

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 12

HONORS INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS

This course is a neutral, academic study of the history, culture and theology of the world's major religions. It is designed to introduce the student to their commonalities, history and basic theology. The course examines the role of religion in society, the commonalities among the various spiritual paths, and a focus on each of the following faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. If time allows, Native American religious beliefs and some of the lesser known faiths such as Baha'i and the Eastern Philosophies will be investigated.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 11, 12

LAW AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

This course focuses on the understanding of our society and its law system. Effective participation within America's legal structure will be highlighted. It will include investigating the structure and implementation of criminal law, the criminal justice process, and identifying/analyzing civil law.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

OMAHA HISTORY

Students in Omaha History will study the rich and colorful past of one of America's great cities. From the Native Americans who first settled here, to the diverse ethnic groups who later called this place home, Omaha, Nebraska, has a unique, vibrant and sometimes gaudy history that is full of interesting and inspiring stories of the individuals who have made their mark here. Learn, too, about the architecture and cultural institutions that have made our city what it is today.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

PSYCHOLOGY

This course explores the complex nature of human behavior and mental process. Emphasis is placed upon the most significant concepts of contemporary psychology as well as how psychologists study behavior.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

AP PSYCHOLOGY 1-2

This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement Psychology exam through rigorous and in-depth study.

Prerequisites: Permission of department

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 1 per semester

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

SOCIOLOGY

This course explores the social structure of society from both a historical and contemporary base. Sociology examines the ways in which people interact with one another. It involves learning about relationships in social institutions, such as the family, and the organization of societies both locally and globally. The course also deals with vital issues and social concerns such as the struggle for civil rights, socialization at a young age, adolescent relationships, crime, poverty and social stratification.

Prerequisites: None

Duration: 1 semester

Credit: 1

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12

HONORS ACADEMIC DECATHLON

"The purpose of the United States Academic Decathlon is to develop and provide academic competitions, curriculum, and assessment to promote learning and academic excellence through teamwork among students of all achievement levels." The class offers opportunities to explore topics in art history, music, literature, social studies, science, economics, and mathematics. Students develop skills in research, writing essays and speeches, and oral communications.

Prerequisites: Application and permission

Duration: 2 semesters

Credit: 1 per semester

Grade Level: 10, 11, 12