

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Title	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Courses:					
Global Studies	X				
Advanced Global Studies	X				
Geography		X			
American History			X		
Advanced American History			X		
AP US History			X	X	X
World History				X	
Advanced World History				X	
AP World History: Modern				X	X
Government					X
Advanced Government					X
Economics					X
Advanced Economics					X
AP Government & Politics					X
Elective Courses:					
The Human Experience I (Psychology)			X	X	X
The Human Experience II (Psychology)				X	X

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. 3 and one-half credits (3 1/2) or seven (7) semesters of Social Studies are required in grades 9 - 12.
2. Each student is to register for a full year of Social Studies each year except for 9th grade.
3. In 9th grade, students only take one semester of Social Studies: Geography
4. Students that take Advanced Placement Government in 12th grade do not have to sign up for Economics since it is embedded in the Advanced Placement Government curriculum.

* Courses with a star are approved by NCAA



SOCIAL STUDIES

Global Studies 8

Course #: A-S1 (0138), B-S2 (0139) – Full Year Required Course

Grade Levels: 8

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: 8th grade Global Studies is a yearlong course where students will use the 5 themes of Geography (region, place, location, movement, and human-environment interaction) to learn about North America, South America, Central America, Europe, East Asia, Australia & Antarctica.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods include reading from the online course textbook, analyzing video applied to course content, note taking, outlining, map work, class discussion, small group activity, presentations, and projects.

Basis for Student Success: Students will attend class, complete daily work, prepare for quizzes/tests, and occasionally participate in small group discussion, projects, and presentations applied to course material.

Advanced Global Studies 8

Course #: A-S1 (0140), B-S2 (0141) – Full Year Required Course

Grade Levels: 8

Prerequisites: None

NOTE: *Advanced English 8 & Advanced Global Studies will be interdisciplinary courses. Students should enroll in both. If you register for Advanced Global you must also register for Advanced English 8.*

Course Description: 8th grade Advanced Global Studies is a yearlong course where students will use the 5 themes of Geography (region, place, location, movement, and human-environment interaction) to learn about North America, South America, Central America, Europe, East Asia, Australia & Antarctica.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods include reading from the online course textbook, analyzing video applied to course content, note taking, writing, social science specific vocabulary, outlining, map work, class discussion, and small group activity.

Basis for Student Success: Students will attend class, complete daily work, prepare for quizzes/tests, and occasionally participate in small group discussion, projects, and presentations applied to course material.

Geography 9 *

Course #: (0142) – Semester Required Course

Grade Levels: 9

Prerequisites: None



SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Description: 9th grade Geography is a semester course that focuses on political, physical, and human geography. Students will describe and understand political and physical locations, history, culture, and the current status of much of the eastern hemisphere.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods include a combination of online research and writing, note taking, readings, videos, maps, terms quizzes, and unit tests. There is a strong emphasis on improving research and note-taking skills, as well as time management and organizational skills.

Basis for Student Success: Students will attend class, take notes, complete daily work, prepare for quizzes/tests, and participate in small group and class discussion.

American History 10 *

Course#: A-S1 (0143), B-S2 (0144) – Full Year Course - fulfills 10th grade requirement

Grade Levels: 10

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course deals with the development of the United States from the turn of the century to the United States' involvement in World War II. Topics covered include: The Progressive Era, World War I, the 1920's, the Great Depression, along with the causes, major events, and results of World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, Watergate, the Reagan Revolution, the Economic Boom of the 1990's, and the events and aftermath of September 11th. Although challenging, the course is designed for students who require more direction from the instructor.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods include a combination of lectures, large and small group discussions, and individual assignments. Assessments will include worksheets, essay and short answer writings, primary sources, secondary sources, quizzes, and unit tests that emphasize writing.

Basis for Student Success: Students should expect to read five to six pages most days and participate in class discussion. Note taking skills and writing will be emphasized.

Advanced American History 10 *

Course #: A-S1 (0145), B-S2 (0146) – Full Year Course - fulfills 10th grade requirement

Grade Levels: 10

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course deals with the development of the United States from the turn of the century to the United States' involvement in World War II. Topics covered in this course include: The Progressive Era, World War I, the 1920's, the Great Depression, along with the causes, major events, and results of World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, Watergate, the Reagan Revolution, the Economic Boom of the 1990's, and the events and aftermath of September 11th. The focus and topics covered in this course are the same as in American History 10, but the content is more in-depth and the expectations of student performance heightened. This course serves those students seeking a challenge, but not yet ready for the



SOCIAL STUDIES

Advanced Placement level. This course will require more self-directed study habits while identifying and supporting college coursework study skills.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods will concentrate on small group discussion, with each group reporting out to the whole. Assessments will focus on free-response essay writing and interaction with primary and secondary sources.

Basis for Student Success: Students will be expected to read five to six pages a day from a college level textbook. Students will be writing often in class and will be expected to participate in class discussion.

A.P. United States History *

Course #: A-S1 (0147), B-S2 (0148) – Full Year Course - fulfills 10th grade requirement.

*****For students taking this course in grades 11 or 12 that have already taken American History 10 or Advanced American History 10, this course is an elective.***

Grade Levels: 10 - 12

Course Description: This course is offered to students grades 10-12. For 10th grade students, it fulfills their credit requirement for U.S. History A and U.S. History B. This course will cover from Native American migration to the present. At the end of the course, students will take the AP U.S. History exam for college credit. The course will require students to concentrate on college skills, such as note-taking and reading skills. This is the first Social Studies Advanced Placement course that students will encounter.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods will concentrate on small group discussion, with each group reporting out to the whole. Assessments will focus on free-response essay writing and interaction with primary and secondary sources. Both instructional methods and assessments will be inline with the preparation needed for the AP Exam as defined by the College Board.

Basis for Student Success: Students will be expected to read and take notes on an average of nine pages from a college level textbook per day. Students will also be expected to regularly write free-response essays. Students will also be expected to actively participate in class discussion.

World History *

Course #: A-S1 (0149), B-S2 (0150)– Full Year Course - fulfills 11th grade requirement.

Grade Levels: 11

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: The first semester covers the period of ancient history from the Egyptians through the Middle Ages. Other topics include: Mesopotamia, early Chinese dynasties, Ancient Greece, and the Roman Empire. The focus of the second semester of this course is on the development of western civilization in the time period of 1300 to the start of World War I. Major topics covered include: the Renaissance, the Age of Absolutism, the Age of Revolutions, and the Industrial Revolution. This course is designed for all students who have an interest in World History.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods will concentrate on class lecture with question and answer format, along with numerous small group activities. Assessments will mainly



SOCIAL STUDIES

consist of daily homework, map quizzes and unit tests that include multiple choice, essays, matching, and map identifications.

Basis for Student Success: Students will be expected to complete reading previews on a semi-regular basis. Also, note-taking, class participation, and writing skills will be important and therefore reviewed and stressed.

Advanced World History *

Course #: A-S1 (0151), B-S2 (0152) - Full Year Course - fulfills 11th grade requirement.

Grade Levels: 11

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: The first semester of this course covers the period of ancient history from the Egyptians through the Middle Ages and the development of Islam. Other topics include: Mesopotamia, early Chinese dynasties, Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire. The focus of the second semester of this course is on the development of Western civilization in the time period of 1300 to World War I. Major topics covered include the Renaissance, Reformation, the Age of Absolutism, The Age of Revolutions, the Industrial Revolution, and the Age of Imperialism. The focus and topics covered in this course are the same as in World History, but the content is more in-depth and the expectations of the student performance heightened. This course serves those students seeking a challenge, but not yet ready for the Advanced Placement level.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods will concentrate on class lecture with question and answer format; along with numerous small group activities. Assessments will mainly consist of daily homework, map quizzes and unit tests that include multiple choice, short essays, matching, and map identifications. There will also be a research assignment with this course.

Basis for Student Success: Students will be expected to complete reading previews on a semi-regular basis. Also, note-taking, class participation, and essay writing skills will be important, and therefore reviewed and stressed. Also, students will spend time analyzing primary and secondary source readings.

A.P. World History: Modern *

Course #: A-S1 (0153), B-S2 (0154) – Full Year Course - fulfills 11th grade requirement.

*****For students taking this course in 12th that have already taken World History or Advanced World History, this course is an elective.***

Grade Levels: 11 - 12

Prerequisites: None. Having taken an Advanced Placement (AP) course previously may help, but is not required.

Course Description: This course is offered to students grades 11-12. For 11th graders, it fulfills their credit requirement for World History. This class will cover world history from the years 1200 CE to modern times. At the end of the course, students will take an AP World History test for an opportunity to earn college credit. This is the second Advanced Placement Social Studies course that students at Mound Westonka High School will encounter.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods will be heavily based on class lecture and student participation. Students will be expected to work with a variety of primary and secondary source readings for discussion. Assessments will mainly consist of chapter quizzes and unit tests with multiple choice and essay focus.

Basis for Student Success: Students will be expected to read chapters of about 10-12 pages on a regular basis. Note-taking and discussion will be a major focus for student understanding of material.

Government *

Course #: A- S1 (0155) – 1st Semester Required Course – fulfills half of the 12th grade requirement

Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is primarily concerned with the student's role as a citizen in the US Society. The course is designed to provide the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable the student to assume a citizen's responsibilities in a democratic society. This course is designed for students who will academically benefit from focusing on the basic fundamental concepts of American Government.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods will include a combination of lectures, guest speakers, large and small group discussions, videos, and individual assignments. Assessments will include worksheets, short answer writings, quizzes, tests and group projects.

Basis for Student Success: Due to the focus on in-class activities, attendance is crucial to success. Class discussion participation along with note taking skills and writing will be emphasized.

Advanced Government *

Course #: B- S2 (0157) – 1st Semester Required Course – fulfills half of the 12th grade requirement

Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is primarily concerned with the student's role as a citizen in the US Society. The course is designed to provide the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable the student to assume a citizen's responsibilities in a democratic society. The Constitution provides the framework for this course and there is an emphasis on current political events.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods will concentrate on class lecture and student participation along with guest speakers and video instruction. Assessment will be built around quizzes, tests, and group projects.

Basis for Student Success: Students will succeed based on attendance, class participation, and their assignment scores, along with quizzes and test results. Students are required to complete a self-paced course portfolio that will require approximately one hour of work outside of class per week. Students will be required to attend a public meeting and complete a writing analysis on the meeting.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Economics *

Course #: B-S2 (0156) – 2nd Semester Required Course – fulfills half of the 12th grade requirement

Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course covers macroeconomics as well as microeconomics. This course focuses on the practical side of economics and is designed for students who will academically benefit from focusing on the basic fundamental concepts of Economics.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods will concentrate on class lecture, note-taking, guest speakers, and other delivery forms. Assessment will be based upon class assignments, quizzes, tests, and projects

Basis for Student Success: Due to the focus on in-class activities, attendance is crucial to success. Quizzes and tests will also be a part of this course.

Advanced Economics *

Course #: B-S2 (0158) – 2nd Semester Course - fulfills half of the 12th grade requirement

Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This is a comprehensive college prep class. Both macroeconomics - the study of the whole economy, and microeconomics - the study of its component parts, are covered. This course stresses the use of college study skills such as reading, research, and note-taking.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods will concentrate upon notes from lecture, reading, collaborative work, and from video instruction along with guest speakers. Instruction will be delivered in a way to prepare students for college.

Basis for Student Success: Due to the focus on in-class activities, attendance is crucial to success. Students will be required to participate in classroom activities and complete satisfactory work on a number of simulated real life economic activities. Students are required to complete a self-paced course portfolio that will require approximately one hour of work outside of class per week.

A.P. Government & Politics *

Course #: A-S1 (0159), B-S2 (0160) – Full Year Course - fulfills the 12th grade requirement

Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is offered to students in grade 12. It lasts a full year and students must take the entire year in order to fulfill their American Government course requirement for 12th grade. The course starts with the historical development of the US government and a general idea of democracy. It then covers the creation of the U.S. Constitution, and finally focuses on the operation of the three branches of government today. At the end of the course, students take the AP



SOCIAL STUDIES

US Government exam for an opportunity to earn college credit. The course stresses in-class discussion and the use of college study skills such as reading, research, assessment preparation, and note taking.

****Any student who takes AP Government through second semester is waived from taking the Economics requirement for seniors. Any student who drops the course before the second semester will have to make up the Government requirement and will need to enroll in an Economics course for the second semester.**

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Focus will be on class lectures and especially class discussion. Assignments consist mostly of reading from the textbook, articles and websites, and being prepared to ask or answer questions on the material. Assessments include quizzes from readings, using notes prepared prior to class, and unit tests that are both multiple choice and essay in format.

Basis for Student Success: Due to the focus on in-class activities, attendance is crucial to success. Note-taking from lectures, discussions (both large and small groups), and class videos are essential. Student preparation, participation, and self-advocacy is a must for success.

The Human Experience I / (Psychology) *

Course #: 0161 – Semester Elective

Grade Levels: 10 - 12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Our new course offering in the Social Studies domain will retain some elements of Psychology, but also include significant lessons relating to Mindfulness. Within the psychology domain, the emphasis will be on the brain, sensation and perception, consciousness, motivation and emotion, personality development, and mental disorders and therapy. The Mindfulness activities will deal with relaxation, stress reduction, developing compassion, and ethical behavior.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods include reading from the course textbook, analyzing video applied to course content, note-taking, outlining, class discussion, small group activity, and lectures. A small project/reflection paper may also be assigned.

Basis for Student Success: Students will attend class, complete daily work, prepare for quizzes/tests, and occasionally participate in small group discussion and/or projects applied to course material. This class will emphasize learning and reflection, NOT homework and tests.

The Human Experience II / (Psychology) *

Course #: 0162 – Semester Elective

Grade Levels: 11 - 12

Prerequisites: The class is open to juniors and seniors who have completed The Human Experience I with a grade of C- or better or have received teacher approval.

Course Description: The Human Experience II will focus on human growth and development, interpersonal skills, gender issues, creative cognitive thought, intellectual ability, and group



SOCIAL STUDIES

socialization. Students will have an opportunity to expand their knowledge of topics covered in the first Human Experience course. The course will conclude with students presenting their findings from a 3-week individual project. As with the first course, a very intentional attempt will be made to keep everything simple and emphasize mindfulness and unplugging on a daily basis.

Instructional Methods and Assessments: Methods include reading from the course textbook, analyzing video applied to course content, note-taking, outlining, class discussion, small group activity, and lectures.

Basis for Student Success: Students will attend class, complete daily work, prepare for quizzes/tests, and occasionally participate in small group discussion and/or projects applied to course material.

