

# Social Studies Course Descriptions

**M/J United States History, Advanced (#200205001):** The purpose of this course is to provide students the opportunity to acquire a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the heritage of the United States and its relationship to the present. The content should include, but not be limited to, the political, economic, technological, and social development of the United States from its historical beginnings to present day. **Annual Course Honors Equivalent**

**M/J United States History, Advanced, Gifted, (#2100020GG):** Primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of American history from the Exploration and Colonization period to the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States and the resulting impact on world history. So that students can clearly see the relationship between cause and effect in historical events, students should have the opportunity to explore those fundamental ideas and events which occurred after Reconstruction. Honors/Advanced courses offer scaffolded learning opportunities for students to develop the critical skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation in a more rigorous and reflective academic setting. Students are empowered to perform at higher levels as they engage in the following: analyzing historical documents and supplementary readings, working in the context of thematically categorized information, becoming proficient in notetaking, participating in Socratic seminars/discussions, emphasizing free-response and document-based writing, contrasting opposing viewpoints, solving problems, etc. Students will develop and demonstrate their skills through participation in a capstone and/or extended research-based paper/project (e.g., history fair, participatory citizenship project, mock congressional hearing, projects for competitive evaluation, investment portfolio contests, or other teacher-directed projects). **Annual Course**

**M/J Civics, Advanced, (#210602001):** The primary content for the course pertains to the principles, functions, and organization of government; the origins of the American political system; the roles, rights, responsibilities of United States citizens; and methods of active participation in our political system. The course is embedded with strong geographic and economic components to support civic education instruction. Honors/Advanced courses offer scaffolded learning opportunities for students to develop the critical skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation in a more rigorous and reflective academic setting. Students are empowered to perform at higher levels as they engage in the following: analyzing historical documents and supplementary readings, working in the context of thematically categorized information, becoming proficient in notetaking, participating in Socratic seminars/discussions, emphasizing free-response and document-based writing, contrasting opposing viewpoints, solving problems, etc. Students will develop and demonstrate their skills through participation in a capstone and/or extended research-based paper/project (e.g., history fair, participatory citizenship project, mock congressional hearing, projects for competitive evaluation, investment portfolio contests, or other teacher-directed projects). **Annual Course**

**M/J World History, Advanced, (#210902501):** The primary content for this course pertains to the world's earliest civilizations to the ancient and classical civilizations of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Students will be exposed to the multiple dynamics of world history including economics, geography,

politics, and religion/philosophy. Students will study methods of historical inquiry and primary and secondary historical documents. Honors/Advanced courses offer scaffolded learning opportunities for students to develop the critical skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation in a more rigorous and reflective academic setting. Students are empowered to perform at higher levels as they engage in the following: analyzing historical documents and supplementary readings, working in the context of thematically categorized information, becoming proficient in notetaking, participating in Socratic seminars/discussions, emphasizing free-response and document-based writing, contrasting opposing viewpoints, solving problems, etc. Students will develop and demonstrate their skills through participation in a capstone and/or extended research-based paper/project (e.g., history fair, participatory citizenship project, mock congressional hearing, projects for competitive evaluation, investment portfolio contests, or other teacher-directed projects). **Annual Course**

**World History Honors, (#210932001):** This course covers modern world history and examines the development of the civilizations that grew after the classical era. This is done through examining social, political, economic, and cultural themes to trace the impact of the past on our present world. Course content includes reading, analyzing, and writing about primary and secondary texts to develop the historical thinking skills needed to answer historical problems. Some of the key events covered in the course are the rise and fall of imperial China, the Renaissance, the Reformation, Islamic civilizations, the American, French, and Latin American Revolutions, the Industrial Revolution, Imperialism in Africa and India, World War I, Communism, the Depression, World War II, Cold War, and Decolonialization. Credit and enrollment for Honors World History requires that the student be responsible for all regularly assigned work. **Annual Course**

**World History Honors, Gifted (#210932002):** This course covers modern world history and examines the development of the civilizations that grew after the classical era. This is done through examining the social, political, economic, and cultural themes to trace the impact of the past on our present world. Course content includes reading, analyzing, and writing about primary and secondary texts to answer questions to historical problems and events. As a gifted course, curriculum content will be covered at a faster pace, and enrichment will be provided through outside readings, contextualizing and critiquing historical texts (writings, images, and film), and honing social studies analytical skills. Some of the key events covered in the course are the rise and fall of imperial China, the Renaissance, the Reformation, Islamic civilizations, the American, French, and Latin American Revolutions, the Industrial Revolution, Imperialism in Africa and India, World War I, Communism, the Depression, World War II, Cold War, and Decolonialization. Credit and enrollment for Honors World History requires that the student be responsible for all regularly assigned work **Annual Course**

**Advanced Placement Human Geography, (#210340002):** This course teaches high school students the curricular equivalent of an introductory college-level course in human geography or cultural geography. The course's content is presented thematically rather than regionally and is organized around the discipline's main subfields: economic geography, cultural geography, political geography, agricultural geography, and urban geography. The approach is spatial and problem oriented. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today. Historical information serves to enrich analysis of the impacts of phenomena such as globalization, colonialism, and the interactions between humans and the environment. **Prerequisite:** The student must have scored a 4 or a 5 on the most recent ELA FSA exam. An "A" or "B" in their current year English and World History class is also required. **Annual Course**

**Advanced Placement European History, (#210938004):** This course is designed to be the

equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university European history course. In AP European History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in four historical periods from approximately 1450 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical comparisons; and utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course also provides six themes that students explore throughout the course to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction of Europe and the world; poverty and prosperity; objective knowledge and subjective visions; states and other institutions of power; individual and society; and national and European identity. **Annual Course**

**Advanced Placement World History, (#210942001):** This course examines world history from c.1200 to the present and is the equivalent of two semester college courses. Students will explore the rise, fall, and interactions of regional and global civilizations through five course themes: social, political, economic, culture, and the environment. In addition, the course teaches important historical thinking skills such as change and continuity, cause and effect, and periodization to help frame an understanding of historical problems, processes, and chronology. Through the course themes and thinking skills, the student will be able demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of important global paradigm shifts such as the rise of Islamic civilizations, the Age of Exploration, imperialism, and the world wars through source-based writing using primary and secondary historical texts, and synthesizing these into a thesis. **Prerequisite:** “A” or “B” in current year English and current social studies course. **Annual Course**

**United States History, Honors, (#210032001):** This course consists of the following content area strands: United States History, Geography, and Humanities. The primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of United States history from Reconstruction to the present day. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States and the resulting impact on world history. So that students can clearly see the relationship between cause and effect in historical events, students should have the opportunity to review those fundamental ideas and events which occurred before the end of the Reconstruction. **Prerequisite:** “A” or “B” in current year English and World History. **Annual Course**

**Advanced Placement United States History, (#210033001):** This course provides students with the opportunity to develop analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems, content, and materials of American historic development. This is done by focusing on persistent themes and change in history and by applying historical reasoning to seek solutions to contemporary problems. Appropriate concepts and skills will be developed in connection with the content that follows. The content should include that determined by the College Board advanced placement program. **Prerequisite:** “A” or “B” in current year English and World History. **Annual Course**

**AICE US History AS, (#210050001):** Students will learn about the expansion of US power from the 1840s to the outbreak of WWII. AICE United States History will focus on domestic and foreign developments, US society, economics, and politics. This course will emphasize historical practice, process and thinking skills. **Annual Course** *Advanced Placement Equivalent*

**AICE US History, A Level, (#210050501):** Students should be able to, after completion of the yearlong course, gain a greater knowledge and understanding of historical periods or themes and a greater awareness of historical concepts such as cause and effect, similarity and differences, and change and continuity. Students will do this by exploring a variety of approaches to different aspects

of history and different interpretations of particular historical issues. The curriculum is divided into themes that span from the dates 1941-1990. **Prerequisite:** The student must have the approval of their current U.S. History teacher to take the course. The student must also have taken either AP U.S. History or Cambridge AS Level U.S. History. **Annual Course** *Advanced Placement Equivalent*

**United States Government Honors, (#210632001):** This course provides students with the opportunity to acquire a comprehensive understanding of American Government and political behavior. The content should include an analysis of those documents which shape our political traditions (the Declaration of Independent, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights), a comparison of the roles of the three branches of government at the local, state, and national levels, an understanding of the evolving role of political parties and interest groups in determining policy, how the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic state have evolved and had been interrupted, and the importance of civic participation in the democratic political process. This is a semester course paired with economics. **Prerequisite:** “A” or “B” in American History honors or an “A” or “B” in AP American History, an “A” or “B” in English Honors or AP English, and the recommendation from those teachers. **Semester Course**

**Economics Honors, (#210234501):** This course provides students the opportunity to acquire a comprehensive understanding of how society organizes and utilizes its limited resources to satisfy unlimited wants. Students examine and analyze the implications of market solutions and public policy decisions related to analyzing the role and impact of economic wants, productive resources, scarcity choices, opportunity costs and trade-offs, economic incentives, specialization, comparative advantage, division of labor, interdependence, how a market fails, savings and investment, government and governmental policy, money and financial institutions, labor supply and demand, the distinction between micro socioeconomic goals, freedom, economic efficiency, equity, full employment, stability and growth. This is a semester course paired with American Government Honors. **Prerequisite:** Same as American Government Honors. **Semester Course**

**Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics, (#210642001):** The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to acquire a comprehensive understanding of American government and political behavior. Specific content to be covered will include, but not be limited to, an evaluation of those documents which shape our political traditions (the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights), an analysis of the roles of the three branches of government at the local, state, and national levels, a comparative view of the changing nature of political parties and interest groups over time in determining government policy, an evaluation of the changing nature of citizen rights and responsibilities in a democratic state, and the importance of civic participation in the democratic political process. Completion of credit in this course precludes the subsequent earning of credit in American Government, American Government Honors, or American Government Honors Gifted. **Semester Course**

**Advanced Placement Macroeconomics, (#210237001):** Explore the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. You’ll use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. **Prerequisite:** Teacher Recommendation. **Semester Course**

**AICE International History, AS Level, (#210049001):** Cambridge International AS and A Level History is a flexible and wide-ranging syllabus covering modern history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The syllabus builds upon skills gained at Cambridge IGCSE or Cambridge O Level and develops lifelong skills including understanding issues and themes within a historical period. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research. Learners develop an understanding of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference, and use historical evidence as part of their studies. At AS level, learners can select

from topics on European, American or International history. **Annual Course**  
*Advanced Placement Equivalent*

**AICE AS Level Psychology, (#210736001):** Learners will explore the ways in which psychology is conducted. Students will review important research; this approach provides an insight into the ways in which psychology has been applied and leads to an enhanced understanding of key themes and issues. The syllabus reflects the five core areas of psychology: social, physiological, developmental and the psychology of individual differences; it also relates psychology to education, health, organizations, the environment and abnormality. **Annual Course**