

# SOCIAL STUDIES

History asks "How did things get to be this way?" There is nothing in the world that does not become more intriguing and far more mysterious once we recognize the complicated events and causes that led to its creation.

At the same time, history also recognizes that there is far more to the past than the events that created the world we know today. As the British writer L. P. Hartley once famously remarked, "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." Recognizing what we share with people in the past, while simultaneously exploring how profoundly their lives differed from our own, provides some of history's most fascinating insights.

History revels in exploring the diversity of the human experience: how profoundly people have differed in their ideas and institutions and cultural practices, how widely their experiences have varied by period and nationality and social circumstances, how much they have struggled with each other while inhabiting a shared world.

History seeks to understand past lives and societies by exploring every conceivable aspect of their reality. It takes as its field of study the entire human experience in all times and places, but does so in ways that pay very close attention to the fine-grained particularities of, and differences among, those times and places.

History analyzes the past, assessing the complex web of causes that help explain why particular events and phenomena occur, but it often communicates its findings in the form of narratives—stories—that make the past come alive as few things can. In this, history straddles the boundary between the sciences and the humanities. It is among the very few modern academic disciplines that can claim for itself one of the classical muses, Clio, of Greek antiquity. At its best, history is a form of literature, an art as much as a science.

*From the University of Wisconsin's "Why Study History?"*

## **CIVICS AND ECONOMICS (Honors)**

1 credit/4.5 weight

Through the study of *Civics and Economics*, students will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible and effective citizens in an interdependent world. Students will need a practical understanding of these systems of civics and economics that affect their lives as consumers and citizens. Furthermore, this course serves as a foundation for *United States History*.

As informed decision-makers, students will apply acquired knowledge to real life experiences. When studying the legal and political systems, students will become aware of their rights and responsibilities and put this information into practice. The economic, legal, and political systems are balanced for presentation and, like other social studies subjects, this course lends itself to interdisciplinary teaching. The goals and objectives are drawn from disciplines of political science, history, economics, geography, and jurisprudence.

## **ECONOMICS**

0.5 credit/4.0 weight

**1.0 credit units/5.0 weight**

Economics is the systematic study of man's effort to satisfy his wants by securing goods and services from the scarcity of nature. The high school economics course is an introduction to the essential concepts, principles, values and methods of economic analysis and their application to the modern world. This course must be taken along with Government in order to fulfill the NC Civics & Economics requirement. (*This course is available online through LHSOC.*)

## **GOVERNMENT**

0.5 credit/4.0 weight

This course is designed as an introduction to American Government. Federal, state, & local organization and operation of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches are the main theme of this course. This course must be taken along with Economics in order to fulfill the NC Civics & Economics requirement. (*This course is available online through LHSOC.*)

## **GOVERNMENT & POLITICS (AP)**

1 credit/5.0 weight

*Prerequisite: Civics and US History. Must meet AP course requirements.*

AP US Government and Politics is a one semester college-level course designed to help students glean and demonstrate deeper understanding of American politics and the processes of government that help to shape our public policies. The course builds upon basic knowledge of American government by delving into deeper analyses of political behavior, political institutions and the factors that influence them. Students will examine the design of the American political system--how it functions as a pluralistic system of various (and often competing) individual and group interests. Students will begin to develop a more sophisticated and insightful understanding of majority-rule democracy, constitutionalism, civil liberties, and other distinguishing characteristics of the American political system.

This course is inherently **reading and writing intensive**--both of these characteristics are designed and implemented at the collegiate level. The rigor of this course is intended to prepare students for the Advanced Placement examination in May. Students demonstrating mastery on this exam are often eligible to receive college-level credits from most post-secondary institutions. *(This course is offered in Spring of even numbered years only.)*

## **US HISTORY**

1 credit/4.0 weight

*Prerequisite: Civics & Economics*

This course includes the study of the political, social, economic, and geographic development of the United States from the colonial days to the present. Emphasis is placed on the personalities that helped shape this nation and on the origins of current political elements. Current events and world issues are discussed throughout the year, and special emphasis is placed on helping students develop a cultural understanding of the nation. *(This course is available online through LHSOC.)*

## **US HISTORY (Honors)**

2 credits/4.5 weight

*Prerequisite: Civics & Economics*

The study of Honors United States History is designed as a survey course and a continuation of the Civics and Economics curriculum studied in ninth grade. This survey course will begin with the national period and the administration of George Washington. Throughout the competency goals, there will be some overlap of time periods to allow for teacher flexibility and to address the complexity of the issues and events. The overall curriculum continues to current times.

The focus of this course provides students with a framework for studying political, social, economic, and cultural issues, and for analyzing the impact these issues have had on American society. This course goes beyond memorization of isolated facts to the development of higher-level thinking skills, encouraging students to make historical assessments and evaluations. *(This is a year-long class.)*

## **US HISTORY (AP)**

2 credits/5.0 weight

*Prerequisite: Civics & Economics. Must meet AP course requirements.*

Advanced Placement United States History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States History. Students will analyze historical material, synthesize their own ideas, and evaluate those of others.

The AP United States History course will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format. Students are required to take the AP College Board exam in US History in May. *(This is a year-long class.)*

## **WORLD HISTORY**

1 credit/4.0 weight

This course includes a brief review of medieval history followed by in-depth examinations of the Renaissance and Reformation, the rise of democratic ideas, the history of world revolutions, the development of imperialism, the impact of the World Wars, and the presence of nationalism in the contemporary world. Each unit utilizes a variety of materials and has an emphasis on geographical relationships. *(This course is available online through LHSOC.)*

## **WORLD HISTORY (Honors)**

1 credit/4.5 weight

The study of World History gives students the opportunity to explore recurring theme of human experience common to civilizations around the globe from ancient to contemporary times. The application of the themes of geography and an analysis of the cultural traits of civilizations will help students understand how people shape their world and how their world shapes them. As students examine the historical roots of significant events, ideas, movements, and phenomena, they encounter the contributions and patterns of living in civilizations around the world. Students broaden their historical perspectives as they explore ways societies have dealt with continuity and change, exemplified by issues such as war and peace, internal stability and strife, and the development of institutions.