

Social Science Department Mission and Vision

Mission:

The Solorio Social Science Department will prepare students for success after high school through increasing civil awareness, fostering an inquisitive attitude towards social issues of past and present, and inspiring a sense of personal ownership in the surrounding world.

Vision:

All Solorio graduates will be informed and respectful of a wide range of cultures, political systems, and ways of thinking about the world and use this deeper understanding to better themselves and their communities.

Social Science Department Faculty

- **Erin Slifka**
 - Contemporary American Issues
 - Department Chair
 - emslifka@cps.edu
- **Kelsey Bakken**
 - Contemporary American Issues
 - kbakken@cps.edu
- **Sam Barnett**
 - AP Psychology, US History
 - sbarnett5@cps.edu
- **Jason Beer**
 - World Studies
 - jmbeer@cps.edu
- **Diana Iocco**
 - US History
 - dmiocco@cps.edu
- **Brian Juozitis**
 - AP U.S. History
 - AP US Government
 - Junior Seminar
 - bjuoztis@cps.edu
- **Laura Kroncke**
 - US History
 - History of Chicago
 - lakroncke@cps.edu
- **Diego Garcia**
 - US History
 - Senior Seminar
 - Dgarcia344@cps.edu
- **Stephanie Naegele**
 - US History
 - Junior Seminar
 - snaegele@cps.edu
- **Jeffrey Niemiec**
 - AP Human Geography
 - jdniemiec1@cps.edu
- **Charlotte Piwowar**
 - Contemporary American Issues
 - Senior Seminar
 - cpiwowar@cps.edu
- **Robin Purman**
 - World Studies
 - repurman@cps.edu
- **Elise Scarbeary**
 - World Studies
 - emscarbeary@cps.edu
- **Jacob Caplan**
 - Sociology / Psychology
 - Junior Seminar / Senior Seminar
 - jhcaplan1@cps.edu

Social Science Department Clubs

Washington Fellows - Washington Fellows gives students an in depth look at our nation's history and political process. Students participate in team building, informational workshops, service projects, and fundraising throughout the year. The program culminates with a trip to Washington, DC in May! See Ms. Slifka, Mr. Barnett, and Ms. Piwowar for more information.

Global Classrooms Model UN: Global Classrooms is an innovative educational program that engages high school students in an exploration of current world issues through interactive simulations and curricular materials. At the core of Global Classrooms is Model United Nations, wherein students step into shoe of UN Ambassadors and debate a range of issues on the UN agenda. See Mr. Juozitis for more information

Social Science Partnerships

- **Mikva Challenge:** Mikva Challenge develops youth to be informed, empowered, and active citizens and community leaders. Through Mikva Challenge, students are engaged in action civics, an authentic and transformative learning process built on youth voice and youth expertise. Solorio students engage with Mikva Challenge programs in their Civics class, through Elections in Action activities, and through Service Learning Projects.



- **Exchange Neighborhoods with Hostelling International-Chicago:** Exchange Neighborhoods is a citywide initiative run by Hostelling International, Chicago, located at 24 E Congress Parkway. The Exchange Neighborhoods program brings together students from different high schools to form relationships and fight back against mistrust, misperceptions, and ignorance of the various neighborhoods and cultures in our city. This program works to combat the cultural isolation of high schools and neighborhoods in Chicago. Through the program, students visit one another's schools and neighborhoods to learn about each others' cultures. Before the exchange, students will learn about various aspects of their own cultures, prepare cultural presentations for visiting students, and learn how to communicate and interact with people of different cultures through rigorous lessons from the Building Bridges Curriculum from the Peace Corps. Students will engage in team-building

activities throughout the exchange and will learn to appreciate their similarities and respect the differences in their cultures.



- **Chicago Votes!** Chicago Votes works to engage youth in the electoral process by leading voter registration drives and leading Parade to the Polls events on Election Days. During Election Season, Solorio students help register other Solorio students & staff to vote. On Election Day, Solorio students participate in a Parade to the Polls event where they travel together to cast their ballots or to support those casting their ballots.



- **Chicago Coalition for the Homeless:** The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless is an organization that works to advocate for the rights of homeless individuals, children, and families in the State of Illinois. Through the Washington Fellows club and within other Social Science courses, Solorio students annually participate in the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless's Speakers' Bureau where formerly homeless individuals come to share their stories with students and discuss issues impacting homeless persons throughout Illinois. After participating in the Speakers' Bureau, Solorio students are trained in lobbying techniques and then travel to Springfield, IL to lobby for current legislation in the Illinois Congress.



- Brighton Park Neighborhood Council:
- Chicago Metro History Education Center:
- Facing History & Ourselves:

Courses Descriptions

Course: World Studies

Course Code: 231101

Credit: 1.0

Requirement: Yes

Instructional Levels: Regular, Honors

Description: The central objective of World Studies is to know the world, understand how it arrived at its present condition, and what its future possibilities and choices may be. Within this course, students will develop a greater understanding of global processes, interactions, developments, and conflicts. The content of this program has been chosen to help students become informed, effective citizens of the world community. Students participate in a variety of challenging classroom activities and examine and analyze vital issues. Core reading & writing skills are developed from multiple DBQ & essay assignments. Throughout the year, students will learn to interrogate primary and secondary source documents, express arguments in oral and written form, and to question various interpretations of history. This is a rigorous, student-centered course where students will not only learn historical facts, but where students will also learn the essential skills of how to read, write, and think critically.

Grade Level: 9

Prerequisites: None

Course: United States History

Course Code: 236101

Credit: 1.0

Requirement: Yes

Instructional Levels: Regular, Honors

Description: The United States History class studies the developments and trends in the history of the nation and people from its beginnings to present time. The content attempts to explain why the American way of life came to be what it is. The facts and concepts related to the following topics are emphasized: Colonial America, American Revolution, Forming a New Nation, Western Expansion, Sectionalism and the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, Populist and Progressive Movements, American Imperialism, World War I, the Jazz Age, the Great Depression and New Deal, and WWII. Preparation for the Public Law 195 Test (Constitution Test) is included. Students will also be required to participate in History Fair during this course.

Grade Level: 10

Prerequisites: World Studies

Course: Contemporary American Issues

Course Code: 238101

Credit: 1.0

Requirement: Yes

Instructional Levels: Regular, Honors

Description: The Contemporary American Issues course studies the developments and trends in recent American society. The content attempts to explain why our current nation is the way it is today. The facts and concepts relate to the following topics: America's struggle for equality, the wealth distribution in American society today, conflicts and consequences since 1941, and creating change in American democracy. This course meets the requirements for Civics.

Grade Level: 11

Prerequisites: US History

Course: Advanced Placement United States History

Course Code: 276101

Credit: 1.0

Requirement: No

Instructional Levels: Advanced Placement

Description: The Advanced Placement United States History course is taught at the college-level in order to prepare students for earning college credit by passing the AP examination in May. This means the class is fast-paced and requires a significant amount of reading and writing. Successful students learn how to interpret, analyze, and synthesize historical materials. The text is only one of the required sources used in class. Other assigned work includes map work, charts, graphs, parallel readings (many of them), short and long essay writing, and note taking. Students are also expected to put in "extra time" preparing for the exam (this may include Saturday mornings or after school reviews).

Grade Level: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Instructor approval

Course: Advanced Placement Human Geography

Course Code: 277101

Credit: 1.0

Requirement: No (Counts As

Instructional Levels: Advanced Placement

World History Credit)

Description: In this yearlong course, students will systematically study the patterns and processes that have shaped our understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They will also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. Topics will include: Industrialization and economic development, land use in urban and rural environments, political organization of space, cultural patterns and processes, and the nature and perspectives of Geography as a field of inquiry. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Human Geography Examination in May and may qualify for college course credit. This course is rigorous, fast paced, and requires extensive reading and writing.

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: 9th Grade Solorio Scholars Program or Instructor approval

Course: **Advanced Placement Psychology**

Course Code: 271101

Credit: 1.0

Requirement: No

Instructional Levels: Advanced Placement

Description: Advanced Placement Psychology is designed to introduce students to the study of the behavior and mental process of humans and other animals. The class is fast-paced and requires a significant amount of reading, writing, and research. Students will learn about many different fields of the subject such as psychological disorders, social, and cognitive psychology. Students are also expected to put in "extra time" preparing for the exam (this may include Saturday mornings and/or after school review sessions). The Advanced Placement Psychology course is taught at a college level in order to prepare students for earning college credit by passing the AP examination in May.

Grade Level: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Instructor approval

Course: **Psychology**

Course Code: 207101

Credit: 0.5

Requirement: No

Instructional Levels: Regular

Description: Psychology is the study of the mental processes and behaviors of humans and other animals. The topics discussed throughout this course include an introduction to the history of psychology, the psychological perspectives, human development, research methods, the brain, abnormal behavior and its treatments, and social behavior.

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Course: **Sociology**

Course Code: 299101

Credit: 0.5

Requirement: No

Instructional Levels: Regular

Description: Sociology is the science of society, social institutions and social relationships. The course is an investigation of the theoretical perspectives explaining sociological issues including the development of groups, organizations, and culture; the process of socialization within culture, race, gender and ethnic groups; and factors that influence deviance. This is a semester course in which student will be required to reflect on their own social experience, write essays, conduct research, and speak publicly on sociological issues.

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Course: **Advanced Placement US Government**

Course Code: 272201

Credit: 1.0

Requirement: No (Counts as a Civics requirement)

Instructional Levels: Advanced Placement

Description: This college level course introduces students to key political ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the political culture of the United States. The course examines politically significant concepts and themes, through which students learn to apply disciplinary reasoning, assess causes and consequences of political events, and interpret data to develop evidence-based arguments.

Grade Level: 11,12

Prerequisites: None

Course: **Chicago History**

Course Code: 263101

Credit: 1.0

Requirement: No

Instructional Levels: Regular

Description: History of Chicago is a year-long elective course committed to various topics in Chicago history. Throughout the year, students will examine primary and secondary sources focused on Chicago's social, geographic, and cultural history. Students will complete several service learning projects aimed towards improvement of issues in the Gage Park community. Students will go on field trips during the course that align with course content. Major topics of study include: the development of the city, art and architecture, segregation, politics, immigration and migration, neighborhoods, and environmental justice.

Grade Level: 12

Prerequisites: None

