

SOCIAL SCIENCES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

To graduate, students must pass one year of American History, one year of World History, one semester of American Government and one semester of Economics. Use the following legend to understand codes:

TP – teacher permission
PR – pre-requisite required
Year – course is worth one (1.0) credit
Semester – course is worth one-half (½) credit

F – recommended for Freshmen
SO – recommended for Sophomores
J – recommended for Juniors
S – recommended for Seniors
NCAA – fulfills NCAA requirements for athletic certification
GR – graduation requirement

**302/303 World History and Geography (A & B) – SO,
Two Semesters
NCAA, GR**

This course takes a global and comparative approach to studying the world and its' past to develop a greater understanding of the development of worldwide events, processes, and interactions among the world's people, cultures, societies, and environments. This will be accomplished by looking through history with three focuses: global, interregional, and regional. Students will also gain an understanding of the relationship and evaluate the role that geography has played in this history.

**310/311 American History & Geography (A & B) – F,
Two Semesters
NCAA, GR**

This course is designed to teach students the historical events that moved the United States into a world power capitalistic society. This will be done by examining events that led to both World Wars, as well as events that have followed to the present. Students will also gain an understanding of the relationship and evaluate the role that geography has played in the course of American History. Students will be required to demonstrate relationships and understanding of events through the use of evaluative instruments, oral presentations, discussions, a book report and research paper.

**384 AP World History (A and B) – SO,J, S
Two Semesters
NCAA**

A.P. World History is a rigorous, college-level course designed to explore human history and development from 8000 B.C.E. to the present. The course will emphasize the development of the following skill set necessary for student success on the National A.P. Exam, in their continued academic career, and in their personal and professional lives: Using historical evidence to create and defend arguments, Development of chronological reasoning, Comparison and Contextualization, and Historical interpretation and synthesis. The acquisition and development of these skills will allow students to understand past events that shape our present world.

**377 A.P. U.S. History – Two Semesters
J, S
NCAA**

The AP U.S. History course focuses on developing students' understanding of American history from approximately 1491 to the present. The course has students investigate the content of U.S. history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides seven themes

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(American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places.

**321 American Government – J, Semester
NCAA, GR**

This course is the study of those institutions on a local, state, and national level that determine the rules and policies by which we as Americans live our daily lives. The objective is to ensure that students learn the constitutional basis of our unique form of democratic government, its present day organization and how they as citizens may participate in its operation in order to meet their responsibilities and safeguard their rights. This study will be accomplished through the use of current articles, lectures, discussions, debate, simulations and various forms of student participation. Student achievement is based on evaluative instruments and class participation.

**397 AP Government – SO, J, S,
Two Semesters, NCAA**

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behavior. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project.

Foundational documents and Supreme Court cases are an integral part of the course and necessary for students to understand the philosophical underpinnings, significant legal precedents, and political values of the U.S. political system and may serve as the focus of AP Exam questions.

**340 Sociology – SO, J, S, Semester
NCAA**

This course is a study of human relationships both on a personal and societal level. The course will help students better understand human behavior in our society by addressing real problems requiring real solutions. This will be accomplished through the use of discussions, simulations, debates, and other hands-on activities that promote information gathering and the exchange of particular social problems of interest. Student achievement will be measured by class participation, the development of a social problem case

study of particular interest to students and evaluative instruments.

**341 Psychology – SO, J, S, Semester
NCAA**

The focus of this course is the continued scientific study of the behavior and development of human beings. The emphasis will be on the social and conscious awareness of humans. Areas of study include Social psychology, personality development, states of consciousness, and cognition and language, development learning, psychological disorders and more. Student achievement will be determined through class participation and ability to demonstrate an understanding of the content through evaluative tools.

**355 AP Psychology – J, S,
NCAA
Two Semesters**

The Advanced Placement Psychology course will expand student's knowledge of psychology. The course will help students understand the systematic study of human behavior and mental processes. Students will develop critical thinking skills. They will become aware of the danger of blindly accepting or rejecting reports of research findings without careful and objective evaluation. Prerequisites: Students must have passed biology before taking this course. Psychology or sociology recommended.

**358 History of World War II – F, SO, J, S,
Semester**

This course focuses on the global conflict of 1939 – 1945. It is a course designed for persons interested in the intricacies of the citizen soldiers. Everyone loves a hero; a person who achieves feats of such exceptional greatness and courage that we can look up to them as source of inspiration. In times of war, many heroes emerge. The bigger the war, of course, the more acts of heroism are bound to occur. Thus, the fairly earned name of "The Greatest Generation" of Americans, those who served in (or got by on the home front) WWII. Many of the heroes of WWII are well-known: you have your General Patton, your JFKs, marines atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima. However, in a war that involved tens of millions of fighting men (and some women), there were bound to be hundreds of acts of gallantry performed by amazing individuals that flew under the proverbial radar. This class will shed some long overdue light on a few unsung heroes of World War II.

We will rely partly on films and other audiovisual sources, as well as on regular class discussions. Our readings and assignments will take us into the origins and causes of the war, the six years of military campaigns, the politics and diplomacy of war-making, race as a factor shaping the war on the planet, the impact of scientific and technological innovations, the social and economic aspects of the struggle, its profound moral and psychological implications, as well

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as the enduring legacy of this epochal outbreak of violence.

381 Current Events – SO, J, S, Semester

Students will review and discuss weekly and daily news stories. They will participate in class discussions and understand how those stories relate to their lives and the world around them. This will be accomplished through research of developing news stories, presentations related to current news, research and analysis of political cartoon elements, quizzes, and projects.

**306 Economics – J, Semester
NCAA, GR**

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to many of the key themes of economics in our world today. Through this course we will cover the basic economic concepts and principles. Elements of microeconomics and macroeconomics will be included in the course worked to provide the students with a firm foundation. Students will explore personal finances within our ever changing "World Economy".

**309 AP Economics – J, S, Two Semesters
NCAA**

The purpose of an AP course in Economics is to provide a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy

**824 Child Development – SO, J, S,
Semester**

This course is designed with a focus on the stages of child development from conception to birth to 6 years of age. Child Development will focus on the stages psychological & physiological development as well as pre-natal & infant care, growth patterns, nutrition and the health issues of children today.

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