

SOCIAL STUDIES DIVISION

BRAD SMITH, MANAGER

Social Studies is the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence. Within the school program, social studies provides a coordinated, systematic study drawing upon such disciplines as anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, and sociology, as well as appropriate content from the humanities, mathematics and natural sciences. The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent 21st century world.

A minimum of three years of study in Social Studies is recommended for college bound students.

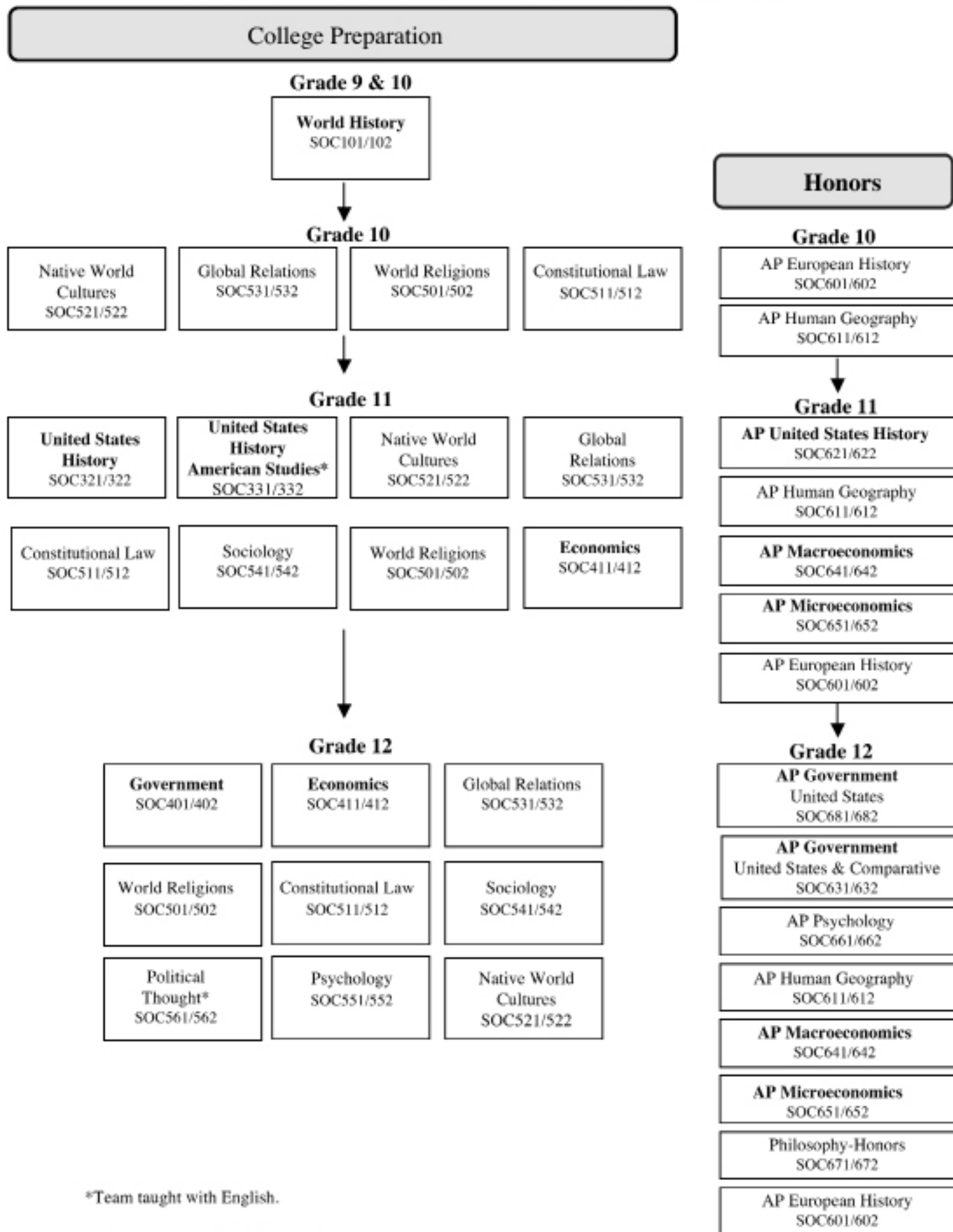


Social Studies Courses Required for Graduation:

- One year of World History
- One year of United States History (or Advanced Placement United States History); and a passing grade on both the Illinois and Federal Constitution test
- Also one semester of Government (or Advanced Placement Government); and a passing grade on both the Illinois and Federal Constitution test
- One semester of Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics fulfills the Consumer Education graduation requirement



SOCIAL STUDIES DIVISION SEQUENCE



*Team taught with English.

Bolded courses fulfill a graduation requirement.



World History (College Prep)

SOC101-Semester 1, SOC102-Semester 2

Open to 9-10

Full Year Course

Prerequisite: None

One year of World History is required for graduation. This survey course in World History is a foundation course for the social studies. A framework is established in which historical patterns, themes and concepts are explored. Although this course touches on some of the greatest ancient and classical civilizations of the old world, it also covers the development of western traditions, especially in the last 500 years. There is an emphasis on the geographical context of civilizations. Students will find ample reason to appreciate both the diversity of the human past and the commonalities in each stage of history. Basic skills in reading, writing, note and test taking will be practiced. Social skills, cooperative group work, debate and class discussion will be taught. Students with six week grades of "D" or "F" will be required to attend tutoring in the learning center during the next six week grading period.

Native World Cultures (College Prep)

SOC521-Semester 1, SOC522-Semester 2

Open to 10-11-12

One Semester

Prerequisite: World History

Native World Cultures is a one semester course that examines the history, geography, and culture of peoples outside of Western Civilization. It focuses on native, or indigenous communities such as Native Americans, Amazonian tribes, Polynesians, Sub-Saharan Africans, Arabs, and Tibetans (to name a few). The course emphasizes the critical role traditional peoples play in the globalized world through an analysis of their challenges and a celebration of their contributions. Students will gain perspective on their own life experience in the context of human diversity.

Global Relations (College Prep)

SOC531-Semester 1, SOC532-Semester 2

Open to 10-11-12

One Semester

Prerequisite: World History

This one semester course will focus on significant contemporary topics in world politics. The emphasis in the course will be on international events after the Cold War. A major goal of the course is to encourage an understanding and evaluation of the international system through major current events. Students will be expected to read current news publications in addition to assigned text materials and will be engaged several issue-based simulations throughout the course.

World Religions (College Prep)

SOC501-Semester 1, SOC502-Semester 2

Open to 10-11-12

One Semester

Prerequisite: World History

This course is designed to introduce students to the major religions of the world. Students will analyze each religion's foundations, historical development, principle themes and beliefs, and cultural impact. Its primary purpose is to equip students with an understanding of the major ideas and practices of the world's religions so that they may better understand the world in which they live.

Constitutional Law (College Prep)

SOC511-Semester 1, SOC512-Semester 2

Open to 10-11-12

One Semester

Prerequisite: World History

Constitutional Law provides students with an understanding of how the U. S. Constitution came into existence, why it took the form it did, and how it functions in contemporary American society.

Students will develop analytic and evaluative skills by applying constitutional principles to a variety of legal issues and political controversies. Students will assume the roles of trial attorney, judge and juror in a mock trial exercise, and legislator in mock legislative debates. These experiences are highly recommended for students considering a legal career.

Philosophy: The History of Ideas (Honors)

SOC671-Semester 1, SOC672-Semester 2

Dual Credit available with Trinity College

Open to 12

One Semester

Prerequisite: World History, U. S. History

The History of Ideas is an introduction to the philosophies by which humans have attempted to understand their world. It is a college-level elective which will consider the major world philosophies, their influence on each other, and their influence on the present. Students will be asked to learn the theories of major philosophers, utilize those ideas in discussion, debates and written assignments. Students will be asked to synthesize those ideas into a personal philosophy of their own.

Advanced Placement Human Geography (Honors)

SOC611-Semester 1, SOC612-Semester 2

Open to 10-11-12

Full Year Course

Prerequisite: World History

The purpose of the Advanced Placement course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of our world. Students employ geographical and spatial concepts and tools to analyze topics such as human population movement and organization, cultural patterns and processes, political organization, agricultural and rural land use, industrialization and economic development, and city and urban land use. Students will be expected to integrate college-level reading with maps, graphs and other spatial data sets to conduct analyses, apply models, and draw conclusions. A summer reading assignment must be completed prior to beginning this course. Students who enroll in this course are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. Success on the AP test may result in college credit.

Advanced Placement European History (Honors)

SOC601-Semester 1, SOC602-Semester 2

Open to 10-11-12

Full Year Course

Prerequisite: World History

This college-level course gives students the basic chronology of major events from approximately 1450 through the present. An understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history and the development of the ability to analyze historical evidence are the major objectives. This course requires excellent reading and writing skills, and its structure is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Test in European History. Students should expect a nightly minimum reading assignment of 10-20 pages and one short paper every 2-3 weeks. A summer reading assignment must be completed prior to beginning the course. Students who enroll in this course are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. Success on the AP test may result in college credit.

U. S. History: American Studies (College Prep)

SOC331-Semester 1, SOC332-Semester 2

Open to 11

Full Year Course

Prerequisite: World History, concurrent enrollment in Junior English: American Studies

This two semester sequence integrates the study of American history and literature with the development of composition, reading, and research skills. Students are scheduled for consecutive periods of history and English, allowing separate study of the two disciplines, as well as activities which integrate the study of our country's history and its literature. This course fulfills the graduation requirement of one year of U. S. History.

U. S. History (College Prep)

SOC321-Semester 1, SOC322-Semester 2

Open to 11

Full Year Course

Prerequisite: World History

This sequence fulfills the graduation requirement of one year of U.S. History as established by the State of Illinois. With an emphasis on the 20th century, the overriding goal of this course is to give students the opportunity to understand how the current domestic and international status of the U. S. developed. It is designed to help students to identify causes and effects, events and philosophies, which led to the contemporary situation, and provide them with an historical basis for decision making. This course builds on the skills associated with historical inquiry introduced in World History. Geographic themes such as location, mobility, and interaction with the environment are stressed within this historical treatment.

Advanced Placement U. S. History (Honors)

SOC621-Semester 1, SOC622-Semester 2

Open to 11

Full Year Course

Prerequisite: World History

This sequence fulfills the graduation requirement of one year of U. S. History as set by the State of Illinois. This interpretive college-level course considers the American experience from colonial times to the present. The course requires excellent reading and writing skills, and its structure is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Test in U. S. History. Course activities include writing positions papers each semester, 2-4 in class essays per month, and 3-4 document based questions per year. A heavy emphasis is placed on analyzing and synthesizing information obtained from primary sources. A summer reading assignment must be completed before the class begins. Students who enroll in this course are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. Success on the AP test may result in college credit.

Government (College Prep)

SOC401-Semester 1, SOC402-Semester 2

Open to 12

One Semester

Prerequisite: World History, United States History

This course is required for graduation. Topics considered in the course include the fundamental concepts and structure of federal, state, and local government; methods of selecting candidates for office; methods by which individuals and groups may influence government officials; and mechanics of voting. The Federal and Illinois Constitution Tests required for graduation by the State of Illinois are taken during this course.

Advanced Placement Government – United States (Honors)
SOC681-Semester 1, SOC682-Semester 2
Open to 12 One Semester
Prerequisite: World History, United States History

This course gives students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U. S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute United States political reality. This course fulfills the graduation requirement of one semester of Government. The Federal and Illinois Constitution Tests required for graduation by the State of Illinois are taken during this course. Course activities include reading periodicals and daily newspapers, as well as a college textbook and supplementary readings. Students will be required to integrate information obtained from readings, discussions, and lectures to answer detailed multiple-choice questions as well as writing analytical and argumentative essays. Students who enroll in this course are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examination in American Government and Politics in May. Success on the AP test may result in college credit.

Advanced Placement Government – United States and Comparative (Honors)
SOC631-Semester 1, SOC632-Semester 2
Open to 12 Full Year Course
Prerequisite: World History, United States History

The first semester of this college level course will focus primarily on U. S. Government and Politics and will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The second semester will focus primarily on Comparative Government and Politics, and will give students a basic understanding of the world's diverse political structures and practices. This full year course fulfills the Government graduation requirement. The Federal and Illinois Constitution Tests required for graduation by the State of Illinois are taken during the second semester of this course. Course activities include reading periodicals and daily newspapers, as well as a college textbook and supplementary readings. Students will be required to integrate information obtained from readings, discussions, and lectures to answer detailed multiple-choice questions as well as write analytical and argumentative essays. Students who enroll in this course are expected to take both the Advanced Placement Examination in American Government and Politics, and the test in Comparative Government and Politics given in May. Success on the AP test may result in college credit.

Political Thought and Its Literature (College Prep)
SOC561-Semester 1, SOC562-Semester 2
Open to 12 One Semester
Prerequisite: United States History and Junior English

This one semester elective course will focus on the reading and discussion of literature and other material which explore basic issues of politics, ethics, and social problems. Students will read novels and plays. Much of the material read will be nonfiction, including articles and historical documents. Students will write essays, participate in class debates, and present reports about such issues as individualism vs. the collectivism in a democracy. An important requirement of the course is student participation in ten hours of community service. Students may elect to take this course for either one credit of English or one credit of Social Studies.

Economics (College Prep)
SOC411-Semester 1, SOC412-Semester 2
Open to 11-12 One Semester
Prerequisite: World History

This course is designed to acquaint students with the economic knowledge and decision-making skills they will need to make rational decisions as informed citizens, responsible consumers, and productive workers. Students will develop an understanding of basic micro and macro economic concepts. They will understand the potential fluctuations in an economy and the influence fiscal and monetary policies have on an economy. Students will be able to articulate the role of government in the US economy and our role in the increasingly significant world economy. Students will be able to incorporate consumer economics into their daily decisions. They will use math skills to express and understand economic concepts. Students will develop critical thinking skills that will help them understand world events and participate as a global citizens.

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics (Honors)
SOC641-Semester 1, SOC642-Semester 2
Open to 11-12 One Semester
Prerequisite: World History

The purpose of an advanced placement course in macroeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination, and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. It places emphasis on the different philosophies and theories associated with Macroeconomic analysis and policy. Students will analyze both basic and extensive economic concepts in order to become informed economic consumers, producers, and suppliers. Students who enroll in this course are expected to take the AP Macroeconomics portion of the AP Economics exam in May. Success on the AP test may result in college credit.

Advanced Placement Microeconomics (Honors)
SOC651-Semester 1, SOC652-Semester 2
Open to 11-12 One Semester
Prerequisite: World History

This is an Advanced Placement level course preparing students for the Advanced Placement Test in Microeconomics. Course work in AP Microeconomics includes: The basic economic problem, the nature of markets, the firm, the factor markets and the role of government. Successful completion of this course fulfills the Consumer Education requirement for graduation. Students who enroll in this course are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examination in Microeconomics in May. Success on the AP test may result in college credit.

Sociology (College Prep)

SOC541-Semester 1, SOC542-Semester 2

Open to 11-12

One Semester

Prerequisite: World History

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a chance to examine human social interaction and social organization. Sociology focuses on special topics such as groups, culture, socialization, deviance and inequalities (gender, social class, race, ethnicity). This class will explore these areas through sociological readings and engaging in discussing and simulation. Students will learn how to become more reflective of themselves, their community, and their society. Students will be required to complete ten community service hours as an alternative to a traditional final exam. Upon completion of this course and required service hours, students should gain a better understanding of themselves and their place in the social world.

Psychology (College Prep)

SOC551-Semester 1, SOC552-Semester 2

Open to 12

One Semester

Prerequisite: World History, United States History

Psychology is a scientific study that deals with emotional, behavioral and mental processes of people in society. Special emphasis includes: abnormal psychology (psychological disorders and treatments) and social psychology (people's perceptions of themselves and others, group behavior and interpersonal attraction). In addition, other topics covered include personality, learning, memory, and the brain. This course will provide an introduction to topics typically covered in an introductory level college psychology course. Students will learn how psychology applies to their lives by partaking in class discussions and group projects. Upon completion of this course students should have a better understanding of themselves and the wide variety of people around them.

Advanced Placement Psychology (Honors)

SOC661-Semester 1, SOC662-Semester 2

Open to 12

Full Year Course

Prerequisite: World History, United States History

The purpose of the year long Advanced Placement course in Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of humans and animals. Students are exposed to the psychological theories, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields within psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in science and practice. Specific topic areas include: biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, cognition, personality, research, history/theory, careers, motivation, emotion, development, abnormal psychology, social psychology, and treatment of psychological disorders. This course will provide the student with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in an introductory college psychology course. Students should possess strong reading skills. Students who enroll in this course are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. Success on the AP test may result in college credit.