

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL



Social Studies Course Catalog

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Geography

Course Description: This course provides an overview of physical and cultural geography. Additionally, an awareness of similarities and differences in human needs and behaviors is developed. Areas of study include North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Islands.

- **Pre-requisites:** 8th Grade Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade Levels:** 9
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

World History

Course Description: A survey of people and nations of both Western and non-Western civilizations, this course explores the political, cultural, and economic heritage of civilization from the time of recorded history through the industrial revolution (5000 B.C. - 1800's) and from the rise of nationalism to contemporary times (1800's - present). Critical thinking and problem solving are stressed.

- **Pre-requisites:** Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade Levels:** 10-11
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

Honors World History

Course Description: A survey of people and nations of both Western and non-Western civilizations, this course explores the political, cultural, and economic heritage of civilization from the time of recorded history through the Industrial Revolution (5000 B.C. - 1800's) and from the rise of nationalism to contemporary times (1800's - present). Critical thinking and problem solving are stressed. Extensive reading and writing are required.

- **Pre-requisites:** 8th Grade Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade Levels:** 9-10
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

Honors Humanities (AP World History, Honors World Literature, and Honors Art History)

Honors Humanities encompasses AP World History, Honors Art History, and Honors World Literature in a two-semester format. Students will receive three graduation credits (AP World History, Honors Art History, and Honors World Literature) in the time that they would normally earn only two. A full quality point will be added to the AP credit, and two .5 quality points will be added to the Honors credits. In addition, students will be ready to take the College Board AP World History exam in May.

- **Pre-requisites:** Honors World History/Honors 9th Literature and Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade levels:** 10-12
- **Terms Offered:** Yearlong
- **Units of Credit:** 3.0

United States History

Course Description: A survey of the development of the United States from discovery through the present, this course serves to increase knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of America's social, political, and economic involvement from colonization to its current position as a world leader.

- **Pre-requisites:** World History
- **Grade Levels:** 11
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

Honors United States History

Course Description: A survey of the development of the United States from discovery through the present, this course serves to increase knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of America's social, political, and economic involvement from colonization to its current position as a world leader. Extensive reading and writing are required.

- **Pre-requisites:** Honors World History or Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade Levels:** 11
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

AP United States History

Course Description: This course conforms to the College Board topics for the Advanced Placement United States History exam and satisfies the U.S. History requirement for graduation. It covers United States history from the time of earliest settlements to the present. The course targets political, economic, and social aspects of history, but also includes diplomatic and intellectual history. The course will involve readings, frequent written analysis, and test taking skills to prepare students for the AP examination. Students are expected to sign up for and take the Advanced Placement exam in United States History.

- **Pre-requisites:** Previous AP Social Studies Recommended or Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade Level:** 11
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

Economics/Government

Course Description: This course satisfies the 0.5 credit for economics and 0.5 credit for government requirements for graduation and includes a study of fundamental concepts, economic systems, government regulation, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international trade. Focus areas include opportunity costs and scarcity, supply/demand analysis, competitive markets, measurement of the economy, business cycles, inflation, unemployment, monetary and fiscal policies, and international economics. In addition, students will learn personal finance which they can apply to their lives long after the course. This includes credit cards, saving and investing, insurance, retirement planning, banking, taxes, etc. In addition to direct instruction, students will also participate in economic simulations of supply and demand, opportunity cost, inflation, the Federal Reserve, currency exchange rates, and more. This course also includes a study of the United States government including the development of our political system, the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, federalism, civil liberties, political parties, and political theory. Students will learn the workings of our executive, legislative and judicial branches. Students will also be exposed to the workings of the government of Georgia and the local level. Citizenship rights and responsibilities are emphasized. Students will participate in research-based simulations possibly including the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. House of Representatives, a presidential election campaign, and will draft and debate their own proposed laws.

- **Pre-requisites:** U.S. History
- **Grade Level:** 12
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** Economics 0.5/Government 0.5/Financial Literacy 0.5

Honors Economics/Government

Course Description: This accelerated course satisfies the 0.5 credit for economics and the 0.5 credit for government requirements for graduation and includes a study of fundamental concepts, economic systems, government regulation, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international trade. Focus areas include opportunity costs and scarcity, supply/demand analysis, competitive markets, measurement of the economy, business cycles, inflation, unemployment, monetary and fiscal policies, and international economics. In addition, students will learn personal finance which they can apply to their lives long after the course. This includes credit cards, saving and investing, insurance, retirement planning, banking, taxes, etc. In addition to direct instruction, students will also participate in economic simulations of supply and demand, opportunity cost, inflation, the Federal Reserve, currency exchange rates, and more. This course also includes an accelerated study of the United States government including the development of our political system, the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, federalism, civil liberties, political parties and political theory. Students will learn the workings of our executive, legislative and judicial branches. Students will also be exposed to the workings of the government of Georgia and the local level. Citizenship rights and responsibilities are emphasized. Students will participate in research-based simulations possibly including the US Supreme Court, U.S. House of Representatives, a presidential election campaign, and will draft and debate their own proposed laws. Current events and real life applications of the content will be emphasized. Students will analyze primary source documents from the U.S. Government and will write about them. They will also be given scenarios involving the government and will suggest legal resolutions to them in line with the roles/powers of government branches.

- **Pre-requisites:** Honors U.S. History or Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade Level:** 12
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** H Economics 0.5/H Government 0.5/Financial Literacy 0.5

AP United States Government and Politics

Course Description: This course conforms to the College Board topics for the Advanced Placement American Government and Politics exam and satisfies the government requirement for graduation. It is the study of state and federal government functions. Focus areas include the development of the political system, federalism, political parties, and political theory. The executive, legislative, and judicial branches will be studied. In addition to direct instruction, students will participate in simulations such as the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Congress and will participate in group discussions and debates. Students are expected to sign up for and take the Advanced Placement exam in United States Government.

- **Pre-requisites:** Previous AP Social Studies recommended or Teacher recommendation
- **Grade Level:** 12
- **Terms Offered:** Yearlong with AP Microeconomics
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

AP Microeconomics

Course Description: This course conforms to the College Board topics for the Advanced Placement Microeconomics examination and also satisfies the economics requirement for graduation. It covers basic economic concepts, the nature and functions of product markets, factor markets, efficiency, equity, and the role of government. While the course focuses on microeconomics, students will also learn content to apply to their lives long after the course such as credit cards, saving and investing, insurance, retirement planning, banking, taxes, etc. They will also learn the Georgia standards for macroeconomics. In addition to direct instruction, students will take part in economic simulations of supply and demand, market structures, inflation, the Federal Reserve, taxes, foreign exchange rates, and more. Current events will be emphasized, and students will be expected to apply economic analysis from class to explain these events in writing and in graphical fashion. Students may also take part in economic debates on a variety of topics. Students are expected to sign up for and take the Advanced Placement exam in Microeconomics.

- **Pre-requisites:** Previous Honors or AP Social Studies Courses Recommended or Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade Level:** 12
- **Terms Offered:** Yearlong with AP Government
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

Psychology

Course Description: This elective is the study of principles of psychology, developmental psychology, heredity, and environmental aspects of psychology, learning theory, personality, intelligence, social disorders, and research methods used in the study of psychology. The goal is for the student to apply the principles and knowledge taught in the course to everyday situations and gain a better understanding of human behavior. The class will include lecture, film, discussion, projects, and labs. Some outside reading is expected.

- **Pre-requisites:** Two units in Social Studies
- **Grade Levels:** 11-12
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

Sociology

Course Description: This elective course offers a study of human society and social behavior. The purpose of the course is to provide students with a basic understanding of how humanity is shaped largely by the groups to which people belong and by the social interaction that take place with those groups. The curriculum of the course is very relevant to our day to day lives and interactions with our family, friends, and classmates. Throughout the semester, contemporary social issues will be discussed in a large group and small group setting. Students will study the causes and possible solutions of these social issues. Students will engage in a variety of different activities such as discussions, experiments, case studies, observations, and class projects. An example of some the topics that will be covered in this course are research methods, theories, origins of Sociology, norms in society, influence of environment on personality development, social inequalities, and social institutions.

- **Pre-requisites:** None
- **Grade Levels:** 10-12
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

Current Issues

Course Description: The purpose of Current Issues is to understand, analyze, and evaluate current issues affecting our world today. The students will be able to understand and detect bias in the media, understand and evaluate the different types of news, and gather, research and evaluate data. In addition, students will develop information processing skills by reading and interpreting maps and graphs. They will also develop public speaking skills and identify the role of our community in the world.

- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Grade Levels:** 10-12
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

AP Psychology

Course Description: The purpose of the elective Advanced Placement course in Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students will learn about topics such as social disorders and therapy, learning theory, personality development, and social psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice. The aim of the AP college introductory course is to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory psychology courses. The class will include lecture, film, discussion, outside reading and labs. College credit can be earned by achieving an acceptable score determined by the college you choose to attend. Students are expected to sign up for and take the Advanced Placement examination in psychology.

- **Pre-requisites:** AP Human Geography and/or Honors World History
- **Grade Levels:** 11-12
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

AP Comparative Government and Politics

Course Description: AP Comparative Government and Politics is an elective course offered spring semester for 11th and 12th graders. This course is intended for social studies students with an interest in government, political science, and world affairs. According to the College Board, “This course introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures, policies, and political, economic, and social challenges among six selected countries: Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria. Additionally, students examine how different governments solve similar problems by comparing the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues.” Again, this course is an elective and does not satisfy the government requirement for graduation.

- **Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Honors World History or Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade Levels:** 11-12
- **Terms Offered:** Spring only
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

AP Human Geography

Course Description: AP Human Geography focuses on the distribution, processes, and effects of human populations on the planet. Case studies from around the globe are compared to the situation in both the United States and locally in our local municipalities and state.

- **Pre-requisites:** Successful completion of Honors World History or Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade Levels:** 9-12
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0

AP European History

Course Description: This course provides students with knowledge of the basic chronology of major events and trends in Europe from 1450 to the present, and is designed to help students develop an understanding of the principal themes in modern European history. The study of European History since 1450 introduces students to cultural, economic, political and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which we live. Additional Information: The goals of AP European History are to develop 1. An understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history; 2. An ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation; and 3. An ability to express historical understanding in writing.

- **Pre-requisites:** Honors World History or Teacher Recommendation
- **Grade Levels:** 10-12
- **Terms Offered:** Fall & Spring
- **Units of Credit:** 1.0