

## 2012-2013 WRHS Social Studies Program

### Social Studies Prerequisites

Course	Level	Prerequisites		
		Course/Grade	MCAS	Teacher Recommendation
World History	Honors	Middle school history courses A-	250	Required
	CPA	Middle school history courses C-	230	Required
	CP	Middle school history courses D+	228	Required
Course	Level	Prerequisites		
US History I	Honors	Hon World History C+ <b>OR</b> CPA World History B		Required
	CPA	CPA World History B <b>OR</b> CP World History C+		Required
	CP	CP World History D-		Required
Course	Level	Prerequisites		
US History II	Honors	Hon US History C+ <b>OR</b> CPA US History B		Required
	CPA	CPA US History B <b>OR</b> CP US History C+		Required
	CP	CP US History D-		Required
Course	Grade 11 - 12	Grade 12 Only		
Grade 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Seminar: Contemporary Problems <input type="checkbox"/> Economics <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary American Culture <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar: Topics in Ethics <input type="checkbox"/> US Government & Politics	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychology I <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology II <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar: International Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology		
Course	Course	Prerequisites		
		Grade	Teacher recommendation	
Grade 11 or 12	AP US History	Hon US I or AP World	Recommended	
Grade 10 or Grade 12	AP World History	None	Recommended	
Grade 12 Only	AP Psychology	None	Recommended	
	AP Government & Politics	None	Recommended	
	AP Economics	None	Recommended	
	AP European History	None	Recommended	

Students must earn 15 credits in Social Studies to graduate. Ten of these social studies credits must come in U.S. History (unless a student completes both AP World and AP US History).

**Social Studies Sequence of Courses:** Grade 9, World History II; Grade 10, U.S. History I; Grade 11, U.S. History II; Grade 12, social studies electives.

**Advanced Sequence:** For advanced history students, an advanced history sequence is available: Grade 9, Honors World History II; Grade 10, AP World History; Grade 11, AP US History; Grade 12, various Advanced Placement electives.

## **Social Studies Department Writing Standard**

The WRHS Social Studies Department requires students in all grades and levels to demonstrate research and writing competencies at an acceptable level. Each course in the Social Studies Department will require students to successfully complete a research paper, a position paper, or a project sometime during the year.

### **Social Studies Description of Levels**

**Honors:** Students at the Honors level will be expected to read scholarly documents and texts for understanding, inference, and context. They will analyze and synthesize information to reach conclusions and formulate and defend positions on a variety of topics. They will perform extensive independent work and will be expected to read and write at a consistently high level. They will write papers and essays that incorporate independent research and will complete other research projects. They will be expected to complete regular homework assignments as reinforcement and enrichment of classroom lessons. Students at the honors level receive an accelerated curriculum that will allow them to make an immediate transition to advanced college work.

**College Prep - Accelerated:** Students at the CPA level will be expected to read primary sources and scholarly material. They will write with coherence and organization as they create papers and essays that incorporate independent research. They will complete other research projects that involve independent work. They will be expected to complete regular homework assignments as reinforcement and enrichment of classroom lessons. Students at the CPA level will receive a solid foundation of knowledge that will allow them to make a seamless transition to a college or university.

**College Prep:** Students at the college prep level will be expected to read primary source material and social studies texts. They will write papers and essays that incorporate research material, and they will complete other research projects under the guidance of their teacher. They will be expected to complete regular homework assignments as reinforcement and enrichment of classroom lessons. Students at the CP level will expand their knowledge in social studies subject areas as they develop the skills necessary for success at the college level.

### **Lower School Program World History**

#### **World History II (H, CPA, CP; Grade 9)**

5 Credits (Full year)

This course follows World History I, which students take in the eighth grade. In World History II, students study the rise of the nation state in Europe, revolutions in the Atlantic world, and the economic and political roots of the modern world. They study the origins and consequences of the Industrial Revolution, 19<sup>th</sup>-century political reform in Western Europe, and imperialism in Africa, Asia, and South America. They will examine the causes and consequences of the great military and economic events of the past century, including World War I, the rise of totalitarianism, World War II, the Cold War, and the Russian and Chinese revolutions. Finally, students will study the rise of nationalism and the continuing persistence of political, ethnic, and religious conflict in many parts of the world.

## **Lower School / Upper School Options**

### **World History II (Grades 9-12)**

5 credits

This course spans the time periods from 1815 to the present and covers World Revolutions, Imperialism, World Wars, Cold War, Independence Movements and the world today. Emphasis will be on how world events affect our country. Class activities will include map-making, research projects and timelines.

### **Social Studies (CP, Grades 9-12)**

5 credits

This class is a comprehensive sociological approach to the historical, cultural and political components of the United States and its interactions with the world; past, present, and future. This course incorporates various topics of United States and World History. The emphasis will be on World History for students in grade 9 and on United States History for students in grades 10 -12. Presentation of materials will include group discussions, hands on activities, and oral/visual presentations in order to meet the diverse learning styles of the students.

## **United States History**

### **United States History I (H, CPA, CP; Grade 10)**

5 credits (Full year)

This course surveys major developments in American history from the Revolutionary era to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Students will examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States during the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. They will study the framework of American democracy and the basic concepts of American government, such as popular sovereignty, federalism, establishment of political parties, and economic and social change. Finally, students will learn about the growth of sectional conflict leading to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War through the Gilded Age. Students will read primary source documents, perform authentic research, and complete research papers and other assignments.

### **United States History I (Grade 10)**

5 credits

This course will cover the major developments in the country's history from the first Americans and the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction. Students will study the historical significance of events in this time period as well as the basic concepts of American government and democracy. Emphasis will be on our government and how it affects our lives. Varied activities will include map making, projects, time lines, field trips and individual reports.

### **United States History II (Grade 11)**

5 Credits

This course introduces students to the major events, movements, people, and ideas which have shaped the growth of our country from Reconstruction to the present. The objective of the class is for the student to develop an appreciation of our country while understanding its growth and development. Students will use texts, discussion, maps, and timelines in this study.

## **Upper School Program United States History**

### **United States History II (H, CPA, CP; Grades 11-12)**

5 Credits (Full year)

In this course, which completes the two-year U.S. History cycle, students will study the historical and intellectual origins of the modern United States. Students will learn the causes and consequences of the United States' emergence on the world stage. Students will examine the influence of Progressive thought on American government and politics. The world wars and the interwar period as well as the effects these major wars had on America will be a major focus of the course. After learning about the world wars, students study the origins, ideas, and events of the Cold War and its impact both domestically and internationally. Students will probe the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam and other modern trends that have shaped America. The course will conclude with a study of 9/11 and contemporary issues and how these events have shaped the conditions in modern America. As in U.S. History I, students will read primary source documents to improve their understanding of history, to perform authentic research, and to complete research papers and other assignments.

### **Advanced Placement United States History (part 2 of the 2 year US program) (AP, Grades 11 – 12)**

5 credits (Full Year)

Using college textbooks and reading materials, students study the history of the United States from 1607 to the present; in addition, they consider changing interpretations of historical periods. This course is based on the College Board expectations:

*"The AP program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and enduring understandings necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP United States History course should thus 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 an essay format."* – College Board, 2010

It is expected that all students will take the AP U.S. History exam in the spring. A student who successfully passes this examination may be given credit or be released from a required course by the college of her/his choice.

### **Advanced Placement United States History (1 year program for students who took AP World History as sophomores) (AP, Grades 11)**

This course meets the same requirements and covers the same curriculum as the previous AP US History course, but it is designed for students who took AP World History in their sophomore year. Students will work at a fast pace and take a more thematic approach as they study American history from 1607 to the present. Please see the course above to read a description of the skills and content covered in this course. All students in this course are expected to take the AP U.S. History exam in the spring. A student who successfully passes this examination may be given credit or be released from a required course by the college of her/his choice.

## **Year-Long Elective Courses**

### **Economics (CPA, Grade 12)**

5 credits

This class provides the senior student the opportunity to understand the mechanics of the financial world by examining choice-making within the individual, industrial and global marketplaces. In the Fall Semester, students will devote their attention to the field of Macroeconomics, targeting the topics of unemployment, national income measures and governmental tax policies to remedy recession and inflation. In the Spring, the course switches gears to concentrate on Microeconomics. In this semester, students learn the about individual decision-making principles, varying business structures, governmental regulation of the market and market inefficiencies.

### **Advanced Placement Economics (AP, Grade 12)**

5 credits

This course is subdivided into two courses – AP Macroeconomics in the first semester and AP Microeconomics in the second semester. This coincides with preparing students for the two separate AP Economics exams in the spring. AP Macroeconomics gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. This course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and also develops students' familiarity with economics performance measures, economics growth, and international economics. AP Microeconomics provides 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.

### **Advanced Placement European History (AP, Grade 12)**

5 credits

This course is an intensive study of Western and non-Western history from 1450 to the present. Students will use college texts and primary and secondary source materials. Students will write responses to document-based questions, research papers and analytical papers, and learn strategies for taking the AP European History examination. Students who take this class are expected to take the AP European History exam in the spring.

### **Advanced Placement Psychology (AP, Grade 12)**

5 credits

Advanced Placement Psychology introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of the 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 sub fields within psychology. They also learn about the methods that psychologists use in their science and practice. The content of the course includes the biological base of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, motivation and emotion, personality, and abnormal psychology. Students who take this class are expected to take the AP Psychology exam in the spring.

### **Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics (AP, Grade 12)**

5 credits

This course gives students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples. It requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics. Topics: "Constitutional Underpinnings of U.S. Government;" "Political Beliefs and Behaviors;" "Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media;" "Institutions of National Government;" "Political Policy;" and "Civil Rights and Civil Liberties." Students who take this course will be expected to take the AP exam in May.

## **Advanced Placement World History (AP, Grade 10 or Grade 12)**

5 Credits

This course is a comprehensive study of World History from the beginning of civilization to the present. First semester includes the study of historical events from early civilizations to 1750; second semester includes the study of historical events from 1750 to 2000. Using college textbooks and primary and secondary sources, students study the world by an analysis of events and /or people causing change. Students must complete a required summer assignment before the class begins. Students are expected to take the AP World History exam in the spring. A student who successfully passes this exam may be given college credit or excused from a required course.

### **Semester Elective Courses Offered Both Semesters**

#### **Social Studies Seminar: Contemporary Problems (CPA/CP, Grades 11-12)**

2½ credits

In this course students will be encouraged to read and keep up with current events in the world. The focus will be those issues that have an impact, both directly and indirectly, on the United States. Students will be expected to utilize knowledge of US history to reach an understanding of the root causes of today's issues. Therefore, not only will students study current events; they will also study the past as it relates to contemporary problems facing the United States. Students will also learn about the political spectrum and how contemporary issues are shaded by politics and bias. Students will be encouraged to become knowledgeable about contemporary problems and form their own educated opinions about the issues studied.

#### **Social Studies Seminar: Topics in Ethics (CPA, Grades 11-12)**

2½ credits

Ethics deals with examining right from wrong, good from bad. This course will engage students in exploring and measuring their own ethical value system in the context of studying historical and contemporary problems. During debates, discussions, research-based essays, and other critical thinking activities, students will explore the nature of good and evil, vice and virtue, truth and deceit.

#### **U.S. Government and Politics (H, CPA; Grades 11 & 12)**

2½ credits

This course provides a framework for students to understand the nature and importance of responsible civic participation and to learn the rights and responsibilities of individuals in a constitutional democracy. Students will examine the history of political philosophies that evolved into today's political and legal systems and will explore this country's constitutional structure and the processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches at the national, state, and local levels. Finally, students will explore their ability to influence policies and decisions as individuals and in groups and will develop the knowledge and inquiry skills to help them understand, preserve, and improve our constitutional democracy.

### **Offered First Semester**

#### **Psychology I: Study of Human Behavior (H, CPA, CP; Grade 12 only)**

2½ credits

This course is an introduction to the field of psychology. Students study differing psychological approaches, theories, and theorists. Students investigate such issues as the biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, principles of learning, and theories of human development. Each student examines herself or himself through the theories of Pavlov, Skinner, Freud, Erickson and other theorists in an attempt to answer the question 'Who Am I?' The activities, materials and requirements will vary according to level. Honors level students will complete a comprehensive research project.

### **Social Studies Seminar: International Relations (H, Grade 12)**

2½ credits

Students engage in a comparative study of different nations' governments: their political ideologies, structures and policies. Based on this knowledge, students will then be provided with a comprehensive introduction to international relations. Historical attempts at significant international relationships and the roles of treaty organizations, blocs, summitry and the United Nations will be examined in trying to reach an understanding of the realities of international problem-solving. College-level reading materials will be used and students will be expected to do independent research and participate in panels and debates.

### **Offered Second Semester**

### **Contemporary American Culture (H, CPA; Grades 11–12)**

2½ credits

An interdisciplinary course that examines recent trends in American culture as they are manifest in the arts and the social sciences. Economics, sociology and political science are joined with the study of contemporary literature, art, and music in order to give students a better understanding of the world in which they live. This course is offered for either English or Social Studies credit.

### **Psychology II- Study of Exceptional Persons (H, CPA, CP; Grade 12 only)**

2½ credits (Prerequisite: Psychology I)

This is a second semester course for students who wish to continue their study of psychology. Students extend their study of human development and are introduced to personality theory. Additional possible topics to be studied include altered states of consciousness, motivation theory and psychological disorders. The activities, materials and requirements will vary according to level. Honors level students will complete a comprehensive research project.

### **Sociology (CPA, CP; Grade 12)**

2½ credits

Students study society at large and their participation in it. Topics included growing up in other cultures, causes of alienation, crime and deviance, sex and gender, race and ethnicity, effects of social stratification, socialization, and institutions of society on the individual. Students use a wide variety of materials and engage in independent and group research.