

Social Studies Electives

Grades 10-12

AP American Government and Politics

(11th & 12th Grade Elective)

Are you interested in how our government really works? Do you like to talk about politics? If you answered yes to these questions, then AP U.S. Government and Politics may be the course for you! The College Board structures this as a semester course, however Montgomery allows almost twice the time. This means that the course is not rushed and can apply current concepts to interesting current events. **Pre-req: 90% in most recent in USI/II, 85% in most recent AP USI/II**

AP Art History

(11th & 12th Grade Elective)

In this course you will learn about various cultures, societies, and nations through the art and architecture that they have produced. The course focuses on diversity and connections among forms of artistic expression throughout history and from around the globe. Consider taking this course if you are interested in history, architecture, art, different societies, and/or different cultures. **Pre-req: 90% in most recent USI/II, 85% in most recent AP USI/II**

AP Economics

(11th & 12 Grade Elective)

Advanced Placement Economics is a challenging course that explores the actions of individuals, businesses, and governments in a domestic and global environment. Students will use analytical thinking, graphical analysis, and mathematical calculations to evaluate economic scenarios and their connections to real world behaviors. Students will need to consistently prepare thoughtfully for class and actively participate in activities and discussions. **Pre-req: 90% in most recent USI/II, 85% in most recent AP USI/II AND 85% in AlgII, PreCalc, or Calc; 80% in AligARH, PreCalcH, or APCalc**

Crime and Punishment

(11th & 12th Grade Elective)

-SEMESTER COURSE-

Does the phrase "innocent until proven guilty" truly apply to all citizens of the United States, or does the 6th Amendment right to a fair trial benefit some more than others? This course explores this critical question and examines the complexities of our Legal Justice System. Through an analysis of famous cases from the late 20th century and contemporary trials, students will gain insight into how the justice system operates, its strengths, and its challenges. This class encourages critical thinking, engaging discussions, and a deeper understanding of the legal principles that shape our society. **Pre-requisite: None**

Elements of Human Behavior

(10th, 11th & 12th Grade Elective)

-SEMESTER COURSE-

What influences human behavior? Is it motivation, emotion, stress, or a combination of factors? This course explores the fascinating world of human behavior, examining how mental processes, chemical imbalances, and external factors contribute to mental health and decision-making. Through research, experiments, and engaging films, students will uncover how the brain perceives and interprets the environment, shaping how we respond to the world around us. This course is designed to provide a deeper understanding of "what makes us tick" and how behavior is influenced by biological and environmental factors. **Prereq: None**

Sociology

(11th and 12th Grade Elective)

-SEMESTER COURSE-

This Sociology course introduces students to the study of human society and social behavior. Students will explore how individuals influence, and are influenced by, others within a variety of social contexts. Topics include the socialization process, culture, norms and values, groups, social institutions, social inequality, collective behavior, and social movements. Students will also examine how beliefs, behaviors, and perceptions are shaped by societal factors. Through discussions, activities, and analysis, this course provides valuable insights into the dynamics of human interaction and society. **Pre-req: None**

Social Studies Electives

American History and Culture through Film

(10th, 11th & 12th Grade Elective)
-SEMESTER COURSE-

This course offers students of all academic levels a way to explore films to view how and why America changed during the 20th & 21st centuries. The films selected for this course are chosen for their specific messages, which typified the time in which they were made or reflect. Through film analysis, students will gain new insight into the social climate that existed during historical events of the 20th & 21st centuries. **Pre-req: None**

Power, Inequity and the Human Experience

(11th and 12th Grade Elective)
-SEMESTER COURSE-

How did we get here! Are "all men created equal?" What power structures influence bias and prejudice against identity, race, class and gender in American society? This class will explore the roots of historical issues such as slavery, racial discrimination, gender roles, sexual orientation discrimination, as well as socio-economic inequality, and relate these to current society. These themes will be explored through literature, film, music, primary and secondary source documents, debates, and projects. **Pre-req: None**

Economics

(10th, 11th & 12th Grade Elective)
-SEMESTER COURSE-

This *Economics* course will introduce students to an economic way of thinking, incorporate the use of graphical analysis, and allow students the opportunity to apply theoretical concepts to current and historical economic events. Students will analyze microeconomic incentives related to individual consumer and business decision making, and explore macroeconomic considerations including unemployment, inflation, and economic growth. **Pre-req: Successful completion of most recent history course.**

A Short History of Everything

(10th, 11th & 12th Grade Elective)
-SEMESTER COURSE-

A discussion based class for curious students wanting to know more about the big questions of history: Space and time, the formation of stars and planets, early humans, and the growth of civilization. Who are we? What does it mean to be human? How do we know? And where is it all heading? This course attempts to answer these big questions by examining the entire past by using the best available knowledge to create a single historical narrative across multiple disciplines, such as historiography, astronomy, geology, biology, and anthropology. We'll learn what we know and what we don't, consider our place in the universe, and develop our own ideas about what the future may hold. Part philosophy, part science, *all* history—this course invites you to uncover the story of everything **Pre-req: Successful completion of most recent history course.**

Honors Contemporary Issues & Leadership

(11th & 12th Grade Elective)
-SEMESTER COURSE-

Throughout the course, students will be expected to engage in critical thinking, drawing from historical context to analyze and evaluate approaches to address present-day issues that impact both the nation and the world. In parallel with our examination of these broader issues, there is an additional focus on civic engagement and leadership. A key feature of this course is the hands-on and experiential component. It involves active engagement within the community, including interactions with the school community, local leaders, and primary research. **Pre-req: 85% in most recent USI/II, 80% in most recent AP or Honors USI/II**

- ❖ **ALL AP & Honors courses have summer assignments.**
- ❖ **For detailed descriptions of all AP courses and exam information, please visit the College Board website.**
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Social Studies Electives

Grade 9

US History I Honors

(10th Grade Elective - Formerly AP USI)

This course encourages students to become apprentice historians who are able to use historical facts and evidence to create deeper conceptual understandings of critical developments in U.S. history. US I Honors will prepare students for the more rigorous AP US II and the AP exam. This course satisfies the 10th grade US History Requirement. Please note: There is no US History II Honors. **Pre-req: Score of ADVANCED on placement test, 90% in WS, 85% in WSH AND 90% in Eng9, 85% in Eng9H**

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