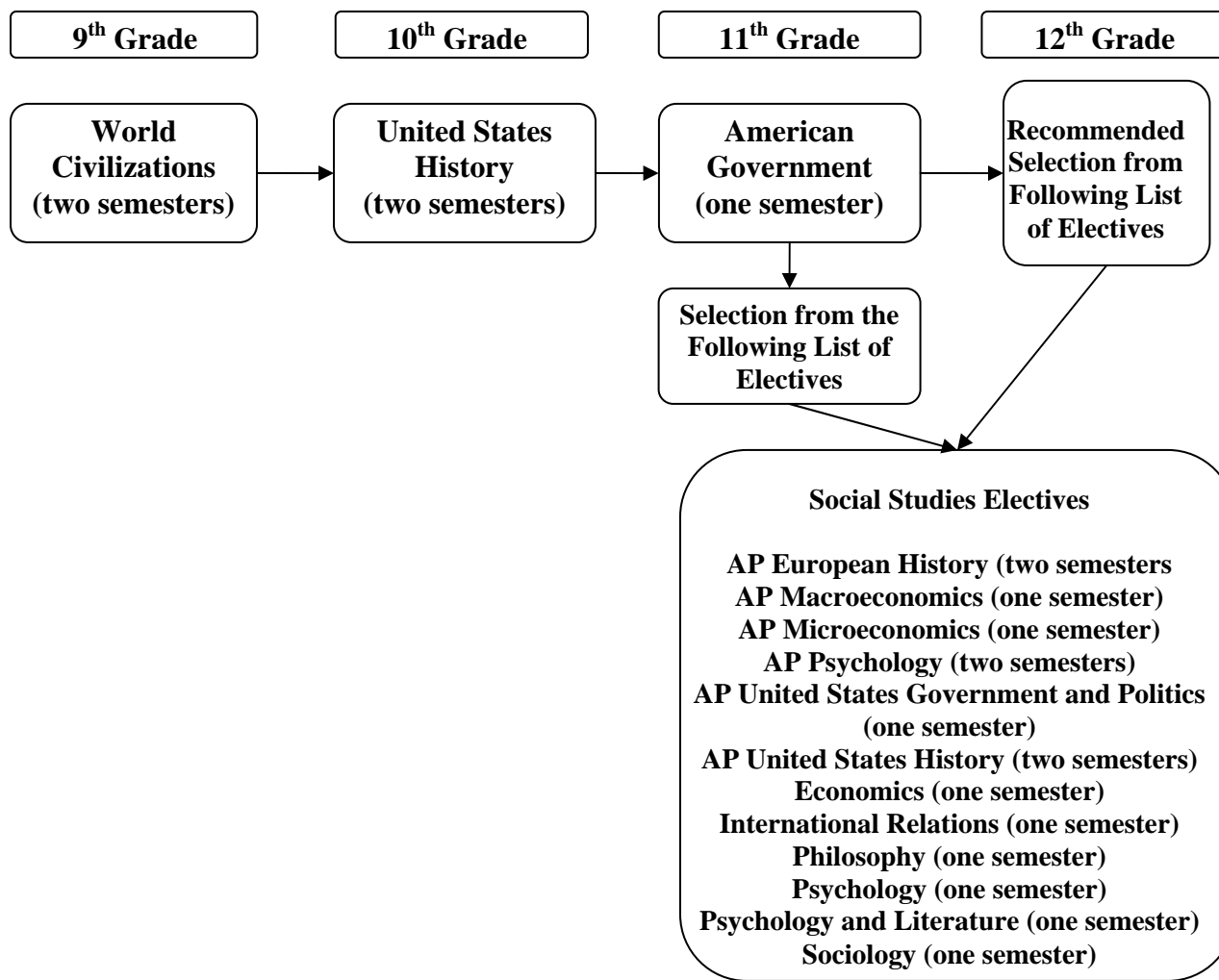


SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM

The District 200 social studies program provides the foundation knowledge necessary to achieve full participation as a citizen in the American republic. In addition, the program provides broad educational experience for students to understand the political, social, and economic dynamics of global trends, developments, and issues. The World Civilizations and United States History courses provide the foundation for all the electives offered within the program. Six semesters of Social Studies credit are required for graduation.



REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (R, I)

Grades: 11, 12 *One Semester*

Prerequisite: U.S. History

American Government covers the fundamentals of American democracy, the federal system, party politics, the system of justice, and other topics of current political interest. Emphasis is placed on the practical preparation of students

for their roles as future voters, jurors, and active community members. Students successfully completing this course will meet graduation requirements in American government, including Illinois statutes pertaining to patriotism and principles of representative government, the proper use of the flag, and methods of voting.

UNITED STATES HISTORY (R, I)

Grades: 10, 11, 12 *Two Semesters*

United States History provides an expansive overview of the settlement, development, and continuing political, economic, and cultural evolution of the United States. Emphasis is placed on significant political events, leaders, foreign relations, economics, and social change in each period under study. Connections of historical events to present U. S. and international situations are also stressed.

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS (R, I, A)

Grades: 9, 10 *Two Semesters*

World Civilizations introduces students to the study of the history of the world as it relates to the present. Through a comparative study of major world civilizations and their evolution, students construct a narrative of the human experience. Case studies throughout the course will focus on how the decisions of the past account for the present circumstances in the world. Emphasis is placed on skills that enable students to accumulate evidence, develop comparative and causal analyses, interpret historical records, and construct sound historical interpretations on which informed decisions in contemporary scenarios can be applied.

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY (A)

Two Semesters

Advanced Placement European History covers the events and movements that occurred in Europe during the time period 1450 to the present. The events and movements of the past are explored through the themes of cultural and intellectual development, political and diplomatic events, and social and economic movements. Students will gain experience analyzing historical documents and expressing their historical understanding in writing. Students will be prepared for and should take the Advanced Placement test in European History.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT MACROECONOMICS (A)

One Semester

Prerequisite: AP Microeconomics

Qualifies for Applied Technology Credit

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics is designed to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Such a course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and also develops familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. Students will be prepared for and should take the Advanced Placement test in Macroeconomics.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT MICROECONOMICS (A)

One Semester

Qualifies for Applied Technology Credit

Advanced Placement 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 PSYCHOLOGY (A)

Two Semesters

Advanced Placement Psychology is designed for students who wish to study human behavior and mental processes at a level that approximates an introductory college course. This course exposes students to a wide range of concepts, research findings, and psychological theories while emphasizing application (demonstration, discussion, and projects) so the students can see how these relate to their own lives. Topics include the historical development of the schools of psychology, research methods; the biological determinates of behavior, states of consciousness, sensation and perception, conditioning and learning, cognition and memory, testing individual differences, normal and abnormal personality development, different types of therapy, and social psychology. Students who take Psychology (I) may not enroll in Advanced Placement Psychology. Students who complete this course will be prepared for

and should take the Advanced Placement Psychology exam.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (A)

One Semester

Recommended: U. S. History

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics is an introduction to the nature of government and the dynamics of American politics. Included are the origins of American Democracy, the federal system, its political party base, local politics, and objectives of political action. The student will actively participate in the political process and have an opportunity to listen to political speakers in the classroom. Students successfully completing this course will meet graduation requirements in representative government, proper use of the flag, and methods of voting. This course is intended for the advanced student. Students who complete this course will be prepared for and should take the Advanced Placement Government and Politics (U.S.) exam.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY (A)

Two Semesters

Advanced Placement U. S. History is designed to develop analytical and critical thinking skills as students deal with the problems and events in U. S. History. Students should learn to assess historical materials or information and make valid interpretations. The course is designed to develop skills necessary to arrive at conclusions based on informed judgments. Students will be taught that, in forming conclusions, all evidence will have to be presented in a clear and persuasive manner. The information may be presented in either oral or written exercises. The course may involve research, extensive reading, and in-depth written assignments. It will cover U. S. History beginning with the period of exploration and discovery and concluding with recent history. Students will be provided with the opportunity to take the advanced placement exam.

ECONOMICS (I)

Grades: 11, 12

One Semester

Economics is an introduction to the essential features of economic performances, allocation of resources, scarcity, and the role of government in the management of economic systems. The

students will participate in an investment project coordinated through Northern Illinois University. The curriculum blends macro- and micro-economic topics to help students gain an understanding of the roles of consumers interacting with agriculture, business, trade unions, and government. This course meets the consumer education requirement as outlined by the State of Illinois.

GIFTED SEMINAR (A)

Grades: 11, 12

One Semester

Gifted Seminar is a one-semester course for the student of outstanding ability and achievement. The course emphasizes extensive reading and use of community resources. Students are expected to integrate learning from previous and current courses in thoughtful analysis of seminar topics and in the preparation of an original final project.

GIFTED WORLD HISTORY (A)

Grade: 9

Two Semesters

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation.

Gifted World History parallels a traditional World History course. However, this course utilizes higher level thinking skills, research and written assignments, field trips, and primary source analysis geared to students determined to be of exceptional academic ability.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (A)

Grades: 11, 12

One Semester

International Relations is devoted to the detailed study of current and topical international problems such as the Middle-East turmoil, Third World diplomacy, the emergence of Africa, and the independence of Latin America. Some major themes to be investigated include contemporary power struggles, the search for non-military solutions to international dilemmas, and the future projection of the world organizations.

PHILOSOPHY (I)

Grades: 11, 12

One Semester

Philosophy is a one-semester course designed to give students a broad introduction to the theories, principles, and contemporary issues confronted by philosophy. The objectives of this course are to improve thinking skills, engage in thoughtful articulation, and gain exposure to a variety of ways at looking at everyday, common occurrences. The course includes analysis of philosophical issues such as logic, metaphysics, aesthetics, and ethics.

PSYCHOLOGY (R, I)

Grades: 11, 12

One Semester

Psychology is a study of the principles of human behavior - both normal and abnormal behaviors are investigated. Topics include learning and cognitive processes, workings of the mind and body, human psychological development, personality theory, mental breakdown, and psychotherapy. The course stresses student interaction, discussion, and experimentation, and includes guest speakers on a variety of topics related to human behavior.

PSYCHOLOGY AND LITERATURE (I)

Grade: 12

One Semester

½ credit English; ½ credit Social Studies

Psychology and Literature is a cross-curricular, two-period, team-taught class. This class is designed to connect the current Psychology curriculum with literature such as novels, short stories, poetry, and essays selected to reinforce

concepts common to both subject matter areas. Basic psychological principles will be learned and applied as they reveal themselves through the literature read. This course will stress student interaction, discussion, and experimentation.

SOCIOLOGY (I)

Grades: 11, 12

One Semester

Sociology is the science that deals with the investigation and analysis of human group relationships, their causes, and consequences. In short, the course deals with the study of society. Within this study, one deals with groups as small as two people to groups as large as all of western or eastern culture. The organization of society, cultural comparisons, social problems, and the effect of various groups in society on the individual are all key elements in the study of sociology.