

Social Studies Courses

2020-2021

Some ideas to help you choose wisely:



- ☞ Take your current teacher's recommendation seriously.
- ☞ Have a conversation with your teacher if they recommend something different from what you want to take.
 - They can give you insights that will help you decide.
 - They may help you focus on specific skills that will allow you to take on a more challenging course.
- ☞ Know yourself, your work habits, and your interest in the subject.
- ☞ Consider the time you have available for class readings or homework.

Linked Opportunities

- ✎ Linking allows teachers to work closely together on students' writing skills, helps teachers incorporate readings, literature, and other cultural material relevant to the historical curriculum, and gives students the opportunity to work together more closely between the two courses.
- ✎ In 9th grade, students taking both World History I Honors and English 9 Honors will be in linked courses.
- ✎ In 10th grade, students who enroll in both World History 2 Honors and English 10 Honors will be in linked courses.
- ✎ In 11th grade, students who enroll in both AP U.S. History and AP Language and Composition will be in linked courses.

9th Grade World History

Standard

- Prehistoric period-1500 CE
- ½ -1 hour of homework
- Study of major early civilizations, philosophies and religions
- One writing assignment per quarter
- One research paper
- Textbook: *World History* (High School Reading Level)



Honors

- Prehistoric period-1500 CE
- 1-2 hours of homework
- Study of major early civilizations, philosophies and religions
- 2-3 writing assignments per quarter
- One research paper
- Textbook: *World History* (High School Reading Level) and many AP level supplemental readings

10th Grade World History



Standard

- 1500 - Present day
- ½ -1 hour of homework
- Western focus with some focus on non western based societies
- One writing assignment per quarter
- One research project
- Textbook: *World History* (High School Reading Level)

Honors

- 1500 - Present day
- 1 hour of homework
- Western focus with greater emphasis on primary source analysis
- National History Day Research Project along with multiple writing assessments
- Textbook: *World History* (High School Reading Level)

AP World

- 1200 CE-Present day
- 1-3 hours of homework (varies as the year progresses)
- Larger emphasis on broader patterns of interaction around the world
- 1-2 timed in class essays per quarter based off AP rubrics
- Textbook: Bentley *Traditions and Encounters* (College Level Text)



11th Grade U.S. History

Standard:

- College-prep
- Homework: 1-2 sections of reading from high school level textbook.
- Grades based on homework, tests, writings, quizzes, and projects.



Honors: (+.5)

- College-prep
- Homework: Modified chapter readings from high school level textbook or supplemental readings
- Assessments such as tests, essays, quizzes, and research paper
- Some homework grades, but no completion grades.



College-Level U.S. History

Dual Enrollment (DE): (+1.0)

- College-level
- Possible 6 college credits – accepted by all Virginia schools and many out-of-state
- Course is designed by NOVA
- Two separate courses (one each semester) with a midterm and final exam each semester.
- No year end national exam.
- Assessments such as tests, essays, quizzes, and research papers/projects
- No completion grades.

AP: (+1.0)

- College-level
- Widely recognized around the country for college credit or course advancement.
- Homework: Full chapter readings from college textbook or supplemental readings
- Assessments such as tests, essays, quizzes, and research paper/project
- Viewed by many colleges as the most rigorous option.
- No completion grades.

12th Grade Government



AP United States Government

- Challenging COLLEGE LEVEL course
- Consider this course if you have a good grade in AP U.S. History or Honors U.S. History, are hardworking, and have an interest in United States government

Honors U.S. /Virginia Government

- Challenging, hands-on course without the pressure of the AP Exam
- Good course for students who may be taking 2 or 3 AP classes in other subjects

U.S./Virginia Government

- College prep course that gives an overview of our federal and state governments.
- Teaches you how to be a participating citizen without the rigor of the AP and honors level courses.



AP Comparative Government

- Challenging COLLEGE LEVEL course
- Really TWO courses in ONE: AP US Government and AP Comparative Government
- Consider taking this course if you have a good grade in AP U.S. History, are hardworking, and have an interest in world politics.

Social Studies Electives

World Religions & Philosophy

9th-12th Grade Students

WORLD RELIGIONS

- Studied first semester
- Explores major religions & religious thought
- Discussion based class
- Nightly reading from religion textbook
- Participant Observer Project (field study)

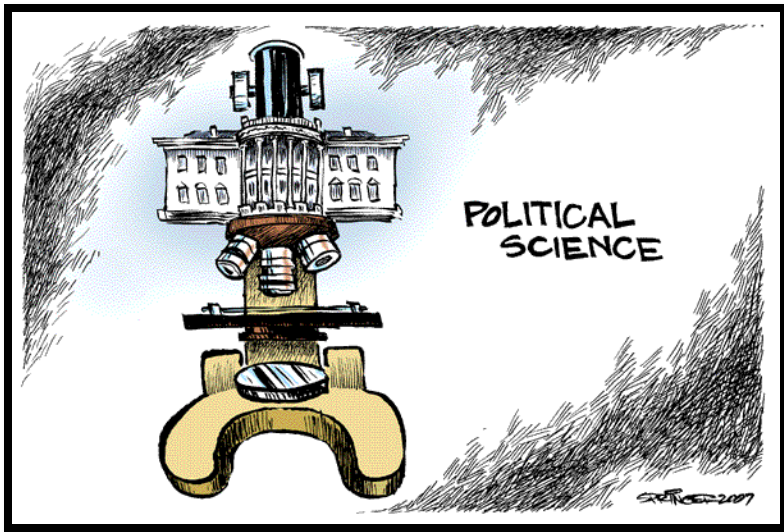


PHILOSOPHY

- Studied second semester
- Explores development of philosophy over time
- Discussion based
- Nightly reading from *Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaarder (novel)
- WISDOM Project (interview based project)

Political Science & Current Affairs

9th-12th Grade Students



- **Read** Machiavelli, Locke, and other political philosophers
- **Do monthly research** on topics of interest
- **Engage** in class discussions on a range of topics, from domestic policy to foreign affairs
- **Grades:** political philosophers and in-class guides, student-selected research, participation

AP Human Geography

10th-12th Grade Students



∞ What exactly is Human Geography?

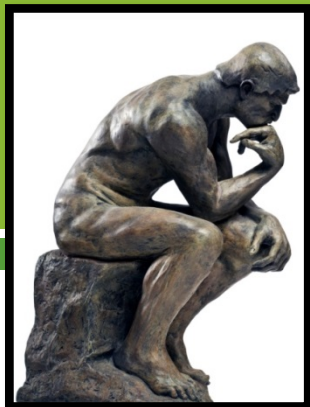
- “The WHY of where” - Where people live, why they live there, what they do there, and what they are like.
- Topics include:
 - Movement of people/migration
 - Spread of folk and pop cultural ideas, world languages, trends, religions
 - Ethnicities
 - Political systems/organizations
 - Economic structures
 - Urban growth and agriculture
 - Globalization

∞ Homework = textbooks readings, vocabulary & map work, and the year-long (8 step) Ambassador project.

∞ Grades are made up of many quizzes (reading, map, and vocabulary), 7 unit tests, free response writings, and a few projects (some in class, some out of class).

∞ Check out this 3 minute video to see some of the ideas that will be explored in this course :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4B2xOvKFFz4#t=132>



Nature of Knowledge

10th - 12th Grade Students

Have you ever found yourself wondering about the “Big Questions” in Philosophy? Have you been interested in philosophy but never had the opportunity to study it? Consider this class!

TOPICS:

❖ **Epistemology** : How do you know that you know what you know?

❖ **Metaphysics** : Are we just a physical body or do we also have a soul? Is free will possible or are we determined to live the life we live?

❖ **Ethics** : What is the good? Why should we be good?

❖ **Applied Ethics** : Examples include: genetic enhancement, aid to the distantly needy, etc.

❖ **Political Philosophy** : What is a just society?

❖ **Logic** : What makes a good argument? How does one go about critiquing an argument?

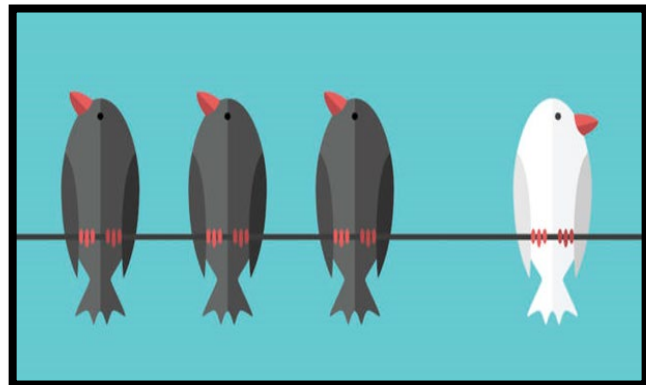
❖ **Aesthetics**: Is beauty really in the eye of the beholder?

Who should enroll:

- It's a great class for students who like to think, discuss, critique, and analyze.
- This course is designed for students who are already taking AP level courses.
- Homework is minimal but students should be prepared to work and think on an AP level in class.
- If you are interested in hearing more or have any questions about the course, please talk to or email Mrs. Allison Cohen

Combating Intolerance

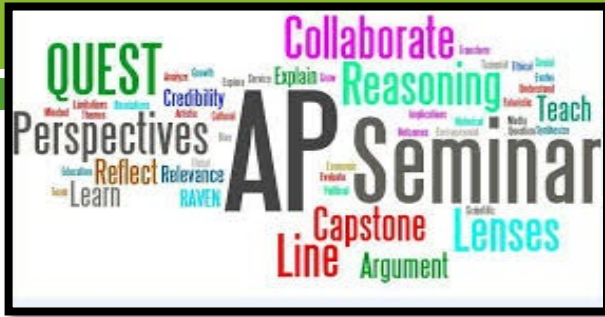
10th-12th Students



- Course and topics will be driven by the interests of the teacher and students.
- Discussion based, highly contemporary with exploration of historical examples of intolerance.
- Possible topics: ableism, sexism, classism, racism, heterosexism, ageism.
- Class will provide a safe place in order to discuss sensitive issues and controversial topics.
- Course requirements: some outside reading required. No SOL or AP exam.

AP Seminar (Capstone Program)

10th-12th Students



Format of Assessment

Team Project and Presentation | 20% of AP Score

- Individual Research Report
- Team Multimedia Presentation and Defense

Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation | 35% of AP Score

- Individual Written Argument
- Individual Multimedia Presentation
- Oral Defense

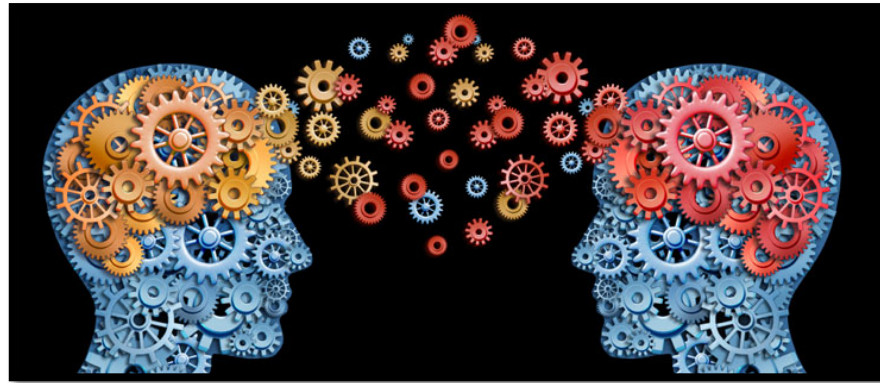
End-of-Course Exam (2 Hours) | 45% of AP Score

- Understanding and analyzing an argument (3 short-answer questions); suggested time 30 minutes
- Synthesizing information to develop an evidence-based argument (evidence-based argument essay); suggested time 90 minutes

- ∞ Teacher and Student led topics considered – great variety in readings/resources, discussions, presentations
- ∞ Cross-curricular focus and an emphasis on real world topics and applications
- ∞ Skill development in research, analysis, argumentation, writing, collaboration, and presentation
- ∞ Not a Social Studies course, but critical thinking skills necessary to be successful are often those emphasized in Humanities courses.
- ∞ As an AP, +1.0 GPA bump

Psychology/Sociology

11th and 12th Grade Students



Psychology – 1st Semester

- ❖ Students examine patterns and variations of human behavior.
- ❖ They identify and examine the emotional, intellectual, and physical factors which influence the development of the individual human being.

Sociology – 2nd Semester

- ❖ Students study the ways people behave in groups.

Homework:

- ❖ About 30 minutes twice a week
- ❖ Both courses use a textbook.

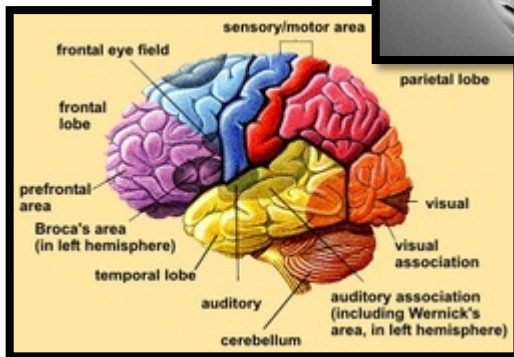
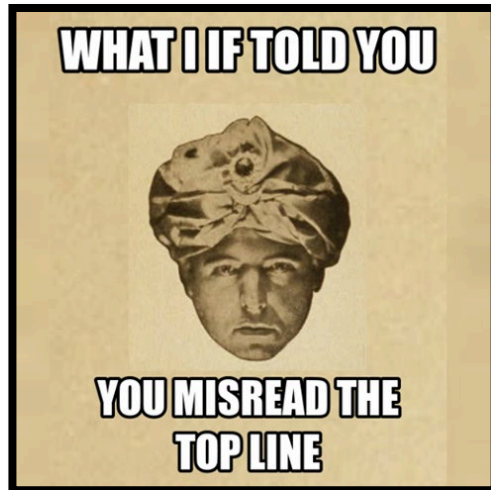
11th and 12th Grade Students



- **CHALLENGING** college-level course
- Year long course, with two AP Exams at the end of the year
 - One semester of AP MICROeconomics
 - One semester of AP MACROeconomics
- Strong math skills VERY helpful
- Fulfills graduation requirement for EPF (Economics/Personal Finance course).

AP Psychology

11th and 12th Grade Students



- ☞ If you like science and are interested in how humans develop, come join us!
- ☞ If you want a challenging AP course that comes WITHOUT HOMEWORK, come join us!
- ☞ If you like to think about why YOU are like YOU are and why others are like they are, come join us!
- ☞ If you want to talk about Alzheimer's, schizophrenia, twins, drooling dogs, babies, animals, memory tricks, prejudice and discrimination, and personality tests, and MUCH, MUCH, MORE, come join us!!!!
- ☞ Challenging AP course (+1.0). See Ms. Herzig for more information!