

Social Science

WORLD STUDIES

Grades: 9

Credits: 1.0 Social Science

Prerequisite: None

Repeat for Credit: No

NCAA Approved: Yes

World Studies examines the geography, history, politics, economics, society and cultures of the world and covers the expanse of history beginning with the periods of imperialism and colonialism and continuing through into the 21st century. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach blending reading, writing and speaking with history.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Grades: 9

Credits: 1.0 Social Science

Prerequisite: Open enrollment with instructor approval

Level: AP

Repeat for Credit: No

NCAA Approved: Yes

Articulated with the College Board's curriculum and designed to parallel college-level Human Geography courses. AP Human Geography introduces high school students to college-level introductory human geography or cultural geography. The content is presented thematically rather than regionally and is organized around the discipline's main subfields: economic geography, cultural geography, political geography, and urban geography. The approach is spatial and problem oriented. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today. Historical information serves to enrich analysis of the impacts of phenomena such as globalization, colonialism, and human-environment relationships on places, regions, cultural landscapes, and patterns of interaction.

AMERICAN STUDIES

Grades: 10

Credits: 1.0 Social Science

Prerequisite: None

Repeat for Credit: No

NCAA Approved: Yes

American Studies provides an overview of the history of the United States, primarily examining 20th century American History from the post-Civil War era through the Cold War. This course examines the political, social, and economic aspects of America's past with an emphasis on historical analysis, critical thinking and comparisons between current events and historical events. Students will engage with primary sources, conduct research, and engage in civic debate and seminars to bring American history to life.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Grades: 12

Credits: 0.5 Social Science

Prerequisite: None

Repeat for Credit: No

NCAA Approved: Yes

Contemporary Issues examines the organization and function of government by looking at the branches of federal and state governments, the balancing of power between centralized and local governments, the role of political parties in the U.S. political system and U.S. foreign and domestic policies from the end of WWII to present day.

ECONOMICS

Grades: 12

Credits: 0.5 Social Science

Prerequisite: None

Repeat for Credit: No

NCAA Approved: Yes

This course provides students with a general overview of fundamental macroeconomic concepts. Students will learn to use economic concepts in dealing with personal, community, national and global economic issues. The primary focus of the class will be on studying the American free enterprise system and the role of markets, competition and entrepreneurship in it. Other topics covered include units on fiscal and monetary policy, comparative economic systems and globalization and international trade.

Social Science

AP US HISTORY

Grades: 10

Credits: 1.0 Social Science

Prerequisite: Open enrollment with instructor approval

Other: SOU credits may be available

Level: AP

Repeat for Credit: No

NCAA Approved: Yes

AP US History prepares students for the AP exam in US History and provides students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the events, people, concepts and problems associated with United States history. Students learn to assess historical materials and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Students will engage in historical essay writing using a variety of historical skills including: argumentation, interpretation, contextualization, causation, continuity and change, and periodization. AP United States History is equivalent to an entry level college survey course. Students will take the College Board exam in May for which scores may warrant the awarding of college credits.

AP US GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Grades: 11-12

Credits: 1.0 Social Science

Prerequisite: Open enrollment with instructor approval

Level: AP

Repeat for Credit: No

NCAA Approved: Yes

This is a college-level semester-long course, which provides a “nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. Students will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons, and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete political science research or applied civics project as part of the course content” (Cammarano et al. 7).

*May be offered every other year.

PSYCHOLOGY

Grades: 10-12

Credits: 1.0 Elective

Prerequisite: None

Repeat for Credit: No

NCAA Approved: Yes

Psychology introduces students to the study of human behavior. The course includes (but is not limited to) a general overview of the field of psychology and specific study in human development, personality and behavior. Specific topics include theories related to learning, memory, brain and nervous system, sensation and perception, personality, social interaction and abnormal behavior.

AP PSYCHOLOGY

Grades: 10-12

Credits: 1.0 Elective

Prerequisite: None

Level: AP

Repeat for Credit: No

Other: RGG/SOU credit may be available

NCAA Approved: Yes

AP Psychology is a college level course designed to prepare students to pass the AP exam in Psychology in May. The course focuses on the 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 subfields within psychology. Students in this course will also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Topics include research methods, the biology of mind, human development, sensation and perception, learning, memory, motivation, emotions, personality, social psychology, abnormal behavior and therapy, among others. This course has more depth and a faster pace than the regular psychology course and involves extensive reading and writing.

Social Science

INTRODUCTION TO LAW

Grades: 10-12

Credits: 0.5 Elective/Social Studies

Prerequisite: None

NCAA Approved: Yes

Repeat for Credit: No

Other: SOU credit is available

For students interested in working in law enforcement or as an attorney, this course would be a great option. Introduction to Law is designed to help students understand and appreciate the impact of law and the legal system in our society. Students will learn how the legal system functions, the constitutional underpinnings of our civil rights and civil liberties and examine case studies that help analyze both the 'how' and 'why' of the legal system's operations. Be prepared to write!

CRIMINAL LAW

Grades: 10-12

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Prerequisite: Introduction to Law

Pathway: Law

NCAA Approved: Yes

Repeat for Credit: No

Other: SOU credit is available

Criminal Law is an exploration of the historical development, current operation, and future trends of criminal justice. Emphasis will be placed on contemporary problems in the definition of law, the enforcement of law, strategies of policing, judicial systems, sentencing strategies, correctional practices, and emerging forms of justice. While the focus of the content will be practices in the United States, we will also look at other cultures and their systems of justice. Students will be introduced to the notion that our definitions of what constitutes a "crime", how society responds to it, and how we explain crime and criminals have changed over time. Similarly, those methods used to measure and compare crime have also changed and students will be introduced to the major sources of our understanding of what we know about the extent of crime in society. A broad survey of the origins, historical development of policing, prosecution, adjudication, sentencing and corrections in the United States will provide students with a basic understanding of the administration of criminal justice and challenge them to decide whether the criminal justice system is a "system" or a "process".

MOCK TRIAL

Grades: 11-12

Credits: 1.0 Elective

Prerequisite: Criminal Law

Pathway: Law

Repeat for Credit: Yes

Mock Trial is the focused study of the intersection between trial law and courtroom procedure. This class will prepare students to analyze criminal cases based on merit, to select jury members, create strategies for both defending and prosecuting defendants and to present evidence in a courtroom setting in the attempt to "win" a legal case. This class will be interactive, as students will be expected to argue routinely for the guilt or innocence of alleged criminals.

