

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Social Studies Courses

| Course | Grade Level | Prerequisite | Credit |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| World Geography | 9-10 | None | 1 |
| AP Human Geography | 9 | None | 1 |
| World History | 10 | World Geography or AP Human Geography | 1 |
| AP World History | 10 | World Geography or AP Human Geography | 1 |
| US History | 11 | World History or AP World History | 1 |
| Sociology | 12 | None | 0.5 |
| Psychology | 12 | None | 0.5 |
| Personal Financial Literacy | 10-12 | None | 0.5 |
| AP United States History | 11-12 | World History or AP World History | 1 |
| Course | Grade Level | Prerequisite | Credit |
| U.S. Government & Politics | 12 | U.S History or AP U.S. History | 0.5 |
| AP U.S. Government & Politics | 12 | U.S History or AP U.S. History | 0.5 |
| AP European History | 10-12 | World Geography or AP Human Geography | 1 |
| AP Comparative Government and Politics | 12 | U.S History or AP U.S. History | 0.5 |
| AP Psychology | 10-12 | None | 0.5 |
| Economics | 12 | U.S. Government | 0.5 |
| AP Macroeconomics | 11-12 | U.S. Government | 0.5 |
| AP Art History | 11-12 | None | 1 |
| Special Topics in Social Studies: Holocaust & Genocide Studies | 11-12 | World History or AP World History | 0.5 |

World Geography**Offered in:** 9-10 **Credits:** 1 **Level:** On level**Prerequisites:**

According to TEA's 19 TAC Chapter 113 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies, Subchapter C, Section §113.43, in World Geography, students examine people, places, and environments at local, regional, national, and international scales from the spatial and ecological perspectives of geography. Students describe the influence of geography on events of the past and present, as well as compare how components of culture shape the characteristics of regions. They analyze the impact of technology and human modifications on the physical environment, and use problem-solving and decision-making skills to ask and answer geographic questions.

AP Human Geography**Offered in:** 9 **Credits:** 1 **Level:** AP/Dual**Prerequisites:**

According to the College Board, the Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012).

World History**Offered in:** 10 **Credits:** 1 **Level:** On level**Prerequisites:**

According to TEA's 19 TAC Chapter 113 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies, Subchapter C, Section §113.42, World History offers students an overview of the entire history of humankind. The major emphasis is on the study of significant people, events, and issues from the earliest times to the present. Students evaluate the causes and effects of both political and economic imperialism, and of major political revolutions since the 17th century. Students analyze the connections between major developments in science and technology and the growth of industrial economies while using the process of historical inquiry to research, interpret, and synthesize multiple sources of evidence.

AP World History**Offered in:** 10 **Credits:** 1 **Level:** AP/Dual**Prerequisites:**

According to the College Board, the AP World History course "focuses on developing students' abilities to think conceptually about world history from approximately 8000 BCE to the present and apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past. Five themes of equal importance — focusing on the environment, cultures, state-building, economic systems, and social structures — provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. AP World History encompasses the history of the five major geographical regions of the globe: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, with special focus on historical developments and processes that cross multiple regions."

U.S. History**Offered in:** 11 **Credits:** 1 **Level:** On level**Prerequisites:**

According to TEA's 19 TAC Chapter 113 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies, Subchapter C, Section §113.41, "students examine the history of the United States from 1877 to the present. The course content is based on the founding documents of the U.S. government, which provide a framework for its heritage. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, and social events related to industrialization and urbanization, major wars, domestic and foreign policies, and reform movements, including civil rights. Throughout the course, students examine and analyze the following: the impact of geographic factors on major events and eras while analyzing their causes and effects, the impact of constitutional issues on American society, the dynamic relationship of the three branches of the federal government, the efforts to expand the democratic process, the relationship between the arts and popular culture and the times during which they were created, and the impact of technological innovations on American life. Students also utilize critical-thinking skills and a variety of primary and secondary source material to explain and apply different methods that historians use to understand and interpret the past, including multiple points of view and historical context."

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Course Descriptions

AP U.S. History

Offered in: 11-12 **Credits:** 1 **Level:** AP/Dual

Prerequisites:

This course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. According to the College Board, the course “focuses on developing students’ abilities to think conceptually about U.S. history from approximately 1491 to the present and apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past. Seven themes of equal importance — identity; peopling; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; environment and geography; and ideas, beliefs, and culture — provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. These require students to reason historically about continuity and change over time and make comparisons among various historical developments in different times and places”.

U.S. Government

Offered in: 12 **Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** On level

Prerequisites: U.S. History

According to TEA’s 19 TAC Chapter 113 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies, Subchapter C, Section §113.44, this course “focuses on the principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded and on the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels; it is the culmination of the civic and governmental content and concepts studied from Kindergarten through required secondary courses. Students learn major political ideas and forms of government in history. They examine the relationship between governmental policies and the culture of the United States, and identify examples of policies that encourage scientific research.”

AP U.S. Government & Politics

Offered in: 12 **Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** AP/Dual

Prerequisites:

According to the College Board, “AP United States Government and Politics introduces students to key political ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the political culture of the United States. The course examines politically significant concepts and themes, through which students learn to apply disciplinary reasoning, assess causes and consequences of political events, and interpret data to develop evidence-based arguments.”

AP European History

Offered in: 10-12 **Credits:** 1 **Level:** AP/Dual

Prerequisites:

According to the College Board, the course “focuses on developing students’ abilities to think conceptually about European history from approximately 1450 to the present and apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past. Five themes of equal importance—Interaction of Europe and the World, Poverty and Prosperity, Objective Knowledge and Subjective Visions, States and Other Institutions of Power, and Individual and Society—provide areas of Historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. These require students to reason historically about continuity and change over time and make comparisons among various historical developments in times and places.”

AP Comparative Government & Politics

Offered in: 12 **Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** AP/Dual

Prerequisites:

According to the College Board, this course “introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and the political, economic, and social challenges among six selected countries: Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria. Additionally, students examine how different governments solve similar problems by comparing the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues”.

Psychology

Offered in: 12 **Credits:** 0.5 **Level:** On level

Prerequisites:

According to TEA’s 19 TAC Chapter 113 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies, Subchapter C, Section §113.45, “psychology, is an elective course in which students study the science of behavior and mental processes. Students examine the full scope of the science of psychology such as the historical framework, methodologies, human development, motivation, emotion, sensation, perception, personality development, cognition, learning, intelligence, biological foundations, mental health, and social psychology.”

AP Psychology

Offered in: 12 *Credits:* 0.5 *Level:* AP/Dual

Prerequisites:

According to the College Board, the AP Psychology course “is designed to introduce students to the scientific study of human behavior, mental processes and experiences. Students will be exposed to psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology as well as exploring scientific methods and ethics. AP Psychology is a course that covers material similar to what is taught in a college-level introductory psychology course. This course may be used to meet only elective course requirements for state graduation.”

Economics

Offered in: 12 *Credits:* 0.5 *Level:* On level

Prerequisites:

According to TEA’s 19 TAC Chapter 118 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits, Subchapter A, Section §118.4, this course is “designed to survey and apply basic macroeconomic concepts relating to personal, institutional, and social decision-making, and primarily focuses on how decisions to buy, sell, lend, and regulate effect output, employment, income distribution, and the balance of trade. Students examine the factors that determine national income, employment, and prices. They analyze patterns of consumption and saving, private investment, government policy, business fluctuations, and the interaction between money and national income. The last part of the course looks at international economics including exchange rates, markets, and monetary systems.”

Sociology

Offered in: 12 *Credits:* 0.5 *Level:* On level

Prerequisites:

According to TEA’s 19 TAC Chapter 113 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies, Subchapter C, Section §113.46, sociology is an introductory study in social behavior and organization of human society. This course will describe the development of the field as a social science by identifying methods and strategies of research leading to an understanding of how the individual relates to society and the ever changing world. Students will also learn the importance and role of culture, social structure, socialization, and social change in today’s society.

Personal Financial Literacy

Offered in: 10-12 *Credits:* 0.5 *Level:* On level

Prerequisites:

According to the TEA’s TAC Chapter 113.49, Personal Financial Literacy will develop citizens who have the knowledge and skills to make sound, informed financial decisions that will allow them to lead financially secure lifestyles and understand personal financial responsibility. The knowledge gained in this course has far-reaching effects for students personally as well as the economy as a whole. When citizens make wise financial decisions, they gain opportunities to invest in themselves, build businesses, consume goods and services in a responsible way, and secure a future without depending on outside assistance. The economy benefits from the optimal use of resources, increased consumption, and strong local businesses. State and local governments benefit with steady revenue streams and reduced future obligations as our society ages.” (This is a new elective course approved for 2016).

AP Macroeconomics

Offered in: 11-12 *Credits:* 0.5 *Level:* AP/Dual

Prerequisites:

According to the College Board, “AP macroeconomics provides students with a thorough understanding of the principles of economics at the societal level and has a primary emphasis on state economic planning, governmental decision making, and the financial sector as a whole. Students learn about economic performance measures, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. In addition, it addresses the key economic schools of thought. The course prepares students to master the AP Macroeconomics examination, as well as provide students with a thorough introduction to the social scientific method of inquiry.”

AP Art History

Offered in: 11-12 *Credits:* 1 *Level:* AP/Dual

Prerequisites:

This course engages students at the same level as an introductory college art history survey. According to the College Board, “the AP Art History course is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college course that explores topics such as the nature of art, art making, and responses to art. By investigating a specific image set of 250 works of art characterized by diverse artistic traditions from prehistory to the present, the course fosters in-depth, holistic understanding of the history of art from a global

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perspective. Students become active participants in the global art world, engaging with its forms and content, as they experience, research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, and responses to and interpretations of art.”

Special Topics in Social Studies: Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Offered in: 11-12 *Credits:* 0.5 *Level:* On level

Prerequisites:

According to TEA's 19 TAC Chapter 113 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies, Subchapter C, Section §113.47, Special Topics in Social Studies is an elective course in which “students are provided the opportunity to develop

a greater understanding of the historic, political, economic, geographic, multicultural, and social forces that have shaped their lives and the world in which they live. Students will use social science knowledge and skills to engage in rational and logical analysis of complex problems using a variety of approaches, while recognizing and appreciating diverse human perspectives.” Harmony Public Schools' Holocaust and Genocide Studies course focuses on the Holocaust, its contemporary significance, and the broader phenomenon of genocide, as well as its impact on Western history, society, ethics, and science. By the end of the course, students will have developed the skills to critically evaluate history, and identify the roles that individuals, governments and international organizations play in creating that history.

LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Language Courses

| Course | Grade Level | Prerequisite | Credit |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------|
| Spanish I / Pre-AP Spanish I | 8-11 | None | 1 |
| Spanish II / Pre-AP Spanish II | 8-12 | Spanish I | 1 |
| Spanish III / Pre-AP Spanish III | 10-12 | Spanish II | 1 |
| AP Spanish Language | 10-12 | Spanish III | 1 |
| AP Spanish Literature | 11-12 | AP Spanish Language | 1 |
| French I | 8-11 | None | 1 |
| French II | 8-12 | French I | 1 |
| French III | 10-12 | French II | 1 |
| German I | 8-11 | None | 1 |
| German II | 10-12 | German I | 1 |
| Turkish I | 8-11 | None | 1 |
| Turkish II | 8-12 | Turkish I | 1 |
| Turkish III | 10-12 | Turkish II | 1 |