

SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

(2-18-10)

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth Grade History

Course Description: The curriculum for sixth grade Social Studies covers a study of American history from the 1900's through present day. The study begins with the description of how gold and silver affects the development of the West and the nation. Railroads and inventions transform life in America and industrialization creates the need for unions and change. As America grows, an analysis of immigration demonstrates how the American culture begins to change. The Progressive Movement, Spanish-American War, WWI, roaring twenties, the depression, WWII, the cold war, Korean War, Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War, Watergate, and the Reagan, Bush, Clinton, and Bush Presidencies are all studied. The study of American history considers people, places, events, documents, art, inventions, and literature. It provides opportunities for the students to experience history and appreciate the past in order to understand the present.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 6th graders.

7th Grade Civics and Geography

Civics

Course Description: The foundation of American citizenship is studied by looking at the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The rights and responsibilities of being a citizen of the United States are discussed. The organization of the national government and how it works is explained and students are taught the importance of being informed and active in politics.

Grade Level: This is a semester course taken by all 7th graders.

Geography

Course Description: A study of the earth using the five geographic themes of location, place, human/environment interaction, movement and region is covered in geography. Where people live, how they live, and what they believe is analyzed. The regions studied are Europe, Asia, Africa and the countries of the Pacific Rim.

Grade Level: This is a semester course taken by all 7th graders.

8th Grade World History

Course Description: The rise of civilization looks at early human beginnings, as well as early civilizations of the Nile Valley, Fertile Crescent, Greece and China. The development of the Roman republic and the rise and fall of the Roman Empire are examined. The three religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, which began in the Middle East, are identified and their importance to world history is discussed. The power held by the Catholic Church and its role during the Middle Ages is discussed as monarchs rise to power and the crusades begin. The expansion of the Mongols' empire and the achievements of the dynasties in China are explored as well as the cultures of India and Japan. The last cultures studied are those of Native Americans and the Aztec and Inca Empires.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 8th graders.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

9th Grade World History

Course Description: This course begins with a study of the Renaissance and the Reformation as the modern world begins to emerge from the Middle Ages. Horizons expand as exploration changes life for many individuals and as empires are explored and built. The power of the monarch is discussed as conflict develops among nations. Revolutions in England, America and France are compared and contrasted. Rising nationalism with its accompanying wars are explained. The reasons and consequences of World War I and World War II are identified and the development of the Cold War explored. Changes in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America are covered and their influences upon specific nations explored.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 9th graders.

10th Grade American History

Course Description: United States history begins with the world in transition as this course reviews ancient cultures native to North America. Factors which spurred Europeans toward world exploration are discussed and the subsequent development of colonial America explored. A survey of the causes of the American Revolution, the War for Independence, the creation of a new nation and the establishment of our republic are also studied. Nationalism and sectionalism are discussed and how such forces led to secession, war and eventual reunion. As the nation reunites and works through reconstruction, new horizons appear as the country moves west. The challenges of industrialization, urbanization, and other societal forces associated with this westward expansion are met and addressed.

Grade Level: This course is taken by all 10th graders except those enrolled in AP European History.

AP European History

Course Description: The study of European history since 1450 introduces students to cultural, economic, political and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. Along with providing a narrative of events and movements, the goals of AP European History are to develop (a) an understanding of some of the principle themes in modern European history (b) an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and (c) an ability to express historical understanding in writing. Specified "summer reading" is required for this course. All students who complete this course are required to take the Advanced Placement test.

Grade Level: This course may be taken in place of 10th/Grade American History in conjunction with English 10 Honors. **It is recommended that pupils have an A average in 9th grade history and English. Students will be expected to take AP American History in 11th grade.**

11th Grade American History

Course Description: This course begins with "Progressive Reform" and analyzes the presidencies of Theodore Roosevelt, Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson. A study of U.S. involvement in WWI and WWII and the intervening years is also examined. Topics such as the roaring twenties and the depression are covered in this study. After describing the "Truman Doctrine" and the "Marshall Plan", the factors that lead to a communist victory in China and a stalemate in Korea are reviewed. As communism spreads, U.S. involvement in Vietnam is recognized and the civil rights struggle in America is evaluated. After the Vietnam War, topics such as Watergate, U.S. hostages in Iran, involvement with Iraq, and the Reagan, Bush, Clinton and Bush presidencies are studied.

Grade Level: This course is taken by 11th graders.

Advanced Placement U.S. History

Course Description: AP United States History is a challenging course that is meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college course and can earn students college credit. It is a two-semester survey

of United States history from the colonial period to the present. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, and interpretation of original documents. A college textbook is used in the course and an average assignment consists of 10 to 12 pages. Students are also trained in note-taking skills as most of the classes are lectures. Throughout the year, students are introduced to typical questions used on the AP Exam which is administered in May. Several weeks are spent in intensive review preparing students to take the exam. All students enrolled in the course are required to take the AP exam.

Grade Level: This course is available to 11th graders.

12th Grade

United States Government

Course Description: This study looks at the principles of U.S. government and their expression in various forms. The structure of the U.S. government is examined by looking at the power and role of the three branches of government. The constitutional rights of citizens are discussed along with their accompanying responsibilities. The development of political parties and their role in how government functions is identified. How interest groups and public opinion shape public policy is also evaluated.

Grade Level: This is a one semester course taken by all 12th graders.

Economics

Course Description: In this course economic concepts are defined and various economic systems are compared and contrasted. Free enterprise is examined throughout the rest of the study. Microeconomics is explored first and the concepts of supply and demand are stressed. The role of prices and competition are explained in terms of how economic decisions are made. Macroeconomics examines the roles of government and labor unions in decision making within the confines of a market economy. Taxes, money and financial institutions are

discussed as is the importance of saving and planning for retirement. The Federal Reserve System is used to describe monetary policy established by the FED. The importance of economic growth is explained and the effects of unemployment, inflation and poverty on economic growth are analyzed.

Grade Level: This is a one semester course taken by all 12th graders.

Psychology

Course Description: The goals of psychology are identified and the historical background of psychology is explained. Psychological methods are explored and various experiments are discussed. The affect that biology has on behavior is explored as the brain is studied. Other topics covered are types of consciousness, learning, memory, thinking and learning, and intelligence. One nine weeks period is spent on human development and another to explore personality. Theories of personality and psychological tests are explained while disorders and their treatment are discussed. This last area of study encompasses gender roles, stress and health, and social interaction.

Grade Level: This course is an elective offered to students in the 11th and 12th grades.