

Social Studies Department

Ms. Christine Butler, Social Studies Program Administrator
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Social Studies Graduation Requirement: 3 Years / 15 Credits

Course Title	Level	Course Number	Grade Level	Semester	# of Periods	Credits
Foundations of America	5	1105	9	All	4	5
Foundations of America	4	1104	9	All	4	5
Foundations of America	3	1103	9	All	4	5
Foundations of America	2	1102	9	All	4	5
Modern World History	5	1205	10	All	4	5
Modern World History	4	1204	10	All	4	5
Modern World History	3	1203	10	All	4	5
Modern World History	2	1202	10	All	4	5
Modern American History	5	1305	11	All	4	5
Modern American History	4	1304	11	All	4	5
Modern American History	3	1303	11	All	4	5
Modern American History	2	1302	11	All	4	5
Sociology	4	1524	11-12	All	4	5

Introduction to Law	4/5	1604/1605	12	All	4	5
Economics	4/5	1554/1555	12	All	4	5
Government	4	1704	11-12	All	2	5
Psychology	4/5	1534/1535	11-12	All	4	5
Gender Studies	4/5	1544/1545	11-12	All	4	5
Real World Social Studies	3/4	1313/1314	11-12	All	4	5

FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICA Level 5 Course # 1105

- This course is required for students in 9th grade. Students will be introduced to the social studies critical thinking skills system. Emphasis is placed on understanding and diagramming cause and effect, comparison, and generalization reasoning. Students will apply these skills to their study of diverse interpretations of core American values such as liberty, equality, and individualism. These concepts are often developed in the most abstract and theoretical form. Students will conduct short as well as more sustained research projects. Students will write clear arguments that are well supported by evidence and will use technology to demonstrate their learning. The course content spans the colonial era up to the early 1900's, including the American Revolution, the creation and adoption of the United States Constitution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, westward expansion, and industrialization. Students are expected to learn material by reading a variety of sources. The sources are often of a professional academic nature and thus require reading comprehension above grade level.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICA Level 4 Course # 1104

- This course is required for students in 9th grade. Students will be introduced to the social studies critical thinking skills system. Emphasis is placed on understanding and diagramming cause and effect, comparison, and

generalization reasoning. Students will apply these skills to their study of diverse interpretations of core American values such as liberty, equality, and individualism. These concepts are introduced using a balance of abstract & concrete approaches. Students will conduct short as well as more sustained research projects. Students will write clear arguments that are well supported by evidence and will use technology to demonstrate their learning. The course content spans the colonial era up to the early 1900's, including the American Revolution, the creation and adoption of the United States Constitution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, westward expansion, and industrialization. Students are expected to learn material by reading a variety of sources including the textbook and supplementary articles. The sources are typically at grade level and occasionally of a professional academic nature.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICA Level 3 Course # 1103

- This course is required for students in 9th grade. Students will be introduced to the social studies critical thinking skills system. Emphasis is placed on understanding and diagramming cause and effect, comparison, and generalization reasoning. Students will apply these skills to their study of diverse interpretations of core American values such as liberty, equality, and individualism. These concepts are introduced using a balance of abstract & concrete approaches with an emphasis on the concrete. Students will conduct short as well as more sustained research projects. Students will write clear arguments that are well supported by evidence and will use technology to demonstrate their learning. The course content spans the colonial era up to the early 1900's, including the American Revolution, the creation and adoption of the United States Constitution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, westward expansion, and industrialization. Students are expected to learn material by reading a variety of sources including the textbook and other supplementary articles. The sources are typically at grade level. Teachers provide instruction regarding study skills, organizational skills and learning strategies to help students become independent learners.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICA Level 2 Course# 1102

- This course is required for students in 9th grade. Students will be introduced to the social studies critical thinking skills system. Emphasis is placed on

understanding and diagramming cause and effect, comparison, and generalization reasoning. Students will apply these skills to their study of diverse interpretations of core American values such as liberty, equality, and individualism. These concepts are introduced in the most concrete form along with carefully selected abstractions. Students will conduct short as well as more sustained research projects. Students will write clear arguments that are well supported by evidence and will use technology to demonstrate their learning. The course content spans the colonial era up to the early 1900's, including the American Revolution, the creation and adoption of the United States Constitution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, westward expansion, and industrialization. Students are expected to learn material by reading a variety of sources including the textbook and other supplementary articles. The sources are typically at or below grade level. Teachers emphasize instruction regarding study skills, organizational skills and learning strategies to help students become independent learners.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

MODERN WORLD HISTORY Level 5 Course # 1205

Prerequisites: Recommendation of Foundations of America

Teacher and Program Administrator.

- Modern World History is a survey course of world history from the French Revolution to the present day. The course examines world history by following the rise of the liberal value system of democracy, individual rights and capitalism, beginning in the Enlightenment and French Revolution through the Age of Progress at the turn of the twentieth century, and how this value system was successful against the twentieth century challenges of authoritarian communism, fascism, and Nazism. The course is designed to have students repeatedly address the essential question, "Do human rights exist, and, if so, what are they and on what are they based?" by drawing on the historical events and philosophies covered in the course. In addition, the course builds on the critical thinking skills developed in Foundations of America by placing an emphasis on synthesizing and expressing well structured arguments that draw on historical sources. The course moves through history at a rapid pace and has both demanding reading and writing assignments, and students are expected to do a large amount of independent work.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

MODERN WORLD HISTORY Level 4 Course # 1204

Prerequisite: Foundations of America

- Modern World History is a survey course of world history from the French Revolution to the present day. The course examines world history by following the rise of the liberal value system of democracy, individual rights and capitalism, beginning in the Enlightenment and French Revolution through the Age of Progress at the turn of the twentieth century, and how this value system was successful against the twentieth century challenges of authoritarian communism, fascism, and Nazism. The course is designed to have students reflect upon the essential question, “Do human rights exist, and, if so, what are they and on what are they based?” by drawing on the historical events and philosophies covered in the course. In addition, the course builds on the critical thinking skills developed in Foundations of America by placing an emphasis on synthesizing and expressing well structured arguments that draw on historical sources. The course homework and projects are designed to reinforce class material and further develop critical thinking skills.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

MODERN WORLD HISTORY Level 3 Course # 1203

Prerequisite: Foundations of America

- Modern World History is a survey course of world history from the French Revolution to the present day. The course examines world history by following the rise of the liberal value system of democracy, individual rights and capitalism, beginning in the Enlightenment and French Revolution through the Age of Progress at the turn of the twentieth century, and how this value system was successful against the twentieth century challenges of authoritarian communism, fascism, and Nazism. The course builds on the critical thinking skills developed in Foundations of America by placing an emphasis on expressing structured arguments through writing, verbal responses and various projects. The course uses historical material as means for further developing reading, writing and critical thinking skills.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

MODERN WORLD HISTORY Level 2 Course # 1202

Prerequisite: Foundations of America

- Modern World History is a survey course of world history from the French Revolution to the present day. The course examines world history by

following the rise of the liberal value system of democracy, individual rights and capitalism, beginning in the Enlightenment and French Revolution through the Age of Progress at the turn of the twentieth century, and how this value system was successful against the twentieth century challenges of authoritarian communism, fascism, and Nazism. The course builds on the critical thinking skills developed in Foundations of America by providing additional teacher support and placing an emphasis on expressing structured arguments through writing, verbal responses and various projects. The course uses historical material as means for further developing reading, writing and critical thinking skills.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY Level 5 Course # 1305

Prerequisites: Recommendation of Modern World History teacher and Program Administrator.

- This course is required for students in 11th grade. Students will continue to explore the social studies critical thinking skills system. Emphasis is placed on evaluation of arguments with additional emphasis placed on decision-making. Students will apply these skills to their study of diverse interpretations of core American values such as liberty, equality, and individualism. These concepts are often developed in the most abstract and theoretical form. The course content spans the Progressive era up through the present, including foreign affairs topics such as imperialism, the World Wars, and the Cold War as well as issues of a domestic focus such as the Great Depression and the Civil Rights Movement. Students are expected to learn material by reading a variety of sources. The sources are often of a professional academic nature and thus require reading comprehension above grade level. Students will conduct short as well as more sustained research projects. Students will write clear arguments that are well supported by evidence and will use technology to demonstrate their learning. In the first semester, students will work independently to produce an in-depth research project on a topic of their choosing that relates to an assigned theme. Students publish their projects at the Winter History Fair in one of five different forms: documentary, exhibit, paper, performance or website.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY Level 4 Course # 1304

Prerequisites: Foundations of America and Modern World History

- This course is required for students in 11th grade. Students will continue to explore the social studies critical thinking skills system. Emphasis is placed on evaluation of arguments with additional emphasis placed on decision-making. Students will apply these skills to their study of diverse interpretations of core American values such as liberty, equality, and individualism. These concepts are introduced using a balance of abstract & concrete approaches. The course content spans the Progressive era up through the present, including foreign affairs topics such as imperialism, the World Wars, and the Cold War as well as issues of a domestic focus such as the Great Depression and the Civil Rights Movement. Students are expected to learn material by reading a variety of sources including the textbook and supplementary articles. The sources are typically at grade level and occasionally of a professional academic nature. Students will conduct short as well as more sustained research projects. Students will write clear arguments that are well supported by evidence and will use technology to demonstrate their learning.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY Level 3 Course # 1303

Prerequisites: Foundations of America and Modern World History

- This course is required for students in 11th grade. Students will continue to explore the social studies critical thinking skills system. Emphasis is placed on evaluation of arguments with additional emphasis placed on decision-making. Students will apply these skills to their study of diverse interpretations of core American values such as liberty, equality, and individualism. These concepts are introduced using a balance of abstract & concrete approaches with an emphasis on the concrete. The course content spans the Progressive era up through the present, including foreign affairs topics such as imperialism, the World Wars, and the Cold War as well as issues of a domestic focus such as the Great Depression and the Civil Rights Movement. Students are expected to learn material by reading a variety of sources including the textbook and other supplementary articles. The sources are typically at grade level. Students will conduct short as well as more sustained research projects. Students will write clear arguments that are well supported by evidence and will use technology to demonstrate their learning. Teachers provide instruction regarding study skills, organizational skills and learning strategies to help students become independent learners.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY Level 2 Course # 1302

Prerequisites: Foundations of America and Modern World History

- This course is required for students in 11th grade. Students will continue to explore the social studies critical thinking skills system. Emphasis is placed on evaluation of arguments with additional emphasis placed on decision-making. Students will apply these skills to their study of diverse interpretations of core American values such as liberty, equality, and individualism. These concepts are introduced in the most concrete form along with carefully selected abstractions. The course content spans the Progressive era up through the present, including foreign affairs topics such as imperialism, the World Wars, and the Cold War as well as issues of a domestic focus such as the Great Depression and the Civil Rights Movement. Students are expected to learn material by reading a variety of sources including the textbook and other supplementary articles. The sources are typically at or below grade level. Students will conduct short as well as more sustained research projects. Students will write clear arguments that are well supported by evidence and will use technology to demonstrate their learning. Teachers emphasize instruction regarding study skills, organizational skills and learning strategies to help students become independent learners.

REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION.

SOCIOLOGY

Level 4

Course # 1524

- Sociology is a study of the varied relationship between man and his society, and includes an analysis of current and changing social problems, exploration of similarities and differences between our own and other cultural groups, and development of awareness of the importance of human dynamics and interactions. Students selecting this course should have good reading comprehension skills. Sound verbal and written communication skills should also be present, as participation in class discussion and debate is an integral component of the class. Skills that will be developed in this course include analytical and critical thinking, inferential reading, sharpened inquiry techniques, and improved cooperative learning techniques through small group project experiences.

PSYCHOLOGY

Level 4/5

Course # 1534 / 1535

- Psychology is the scientific study of what people do and why people do it. Students explore and respond to essential questions about human behavior and mental processes with an emphasis on the relationship between course

content and students' own life experiences. Content areas include dreams and consciousness, perception, social psychology, human development, intelligence, emotion, personality and psychological disorders. Modern psychological perspectives and the scientific method will give students tools for evaluating competing visions of the way that people work. The course requires initiative and independent reading and writing ability. Students enrolled in Level 5 of this course should be capable of critically analyzing and evaluating additional independent readings and should write at an advanced level. Students enrolled in Level 5 of this course have differentiated assessment on tests, quizzes and projects as well.

INTRODUCTION TO LAW Level 4/5 Course # 1604 / 1605

- What makes good law? Law explores the American legal system with an emphasis on constructing, analyzing and evaluating arguments. The course emphasizes arguing and deciding historical, contemporary and hypothetical cases with a focus on Constitutional rights and the Criminal Law, and their relationship with foundational political values. Students will also learn about the legal system, dispute resolution, property law, and family law. The course requires analytical thinking and self-directed learning. Students enrolled in Level 5 of this course should be capable of analyzing and evaluating additional independent readings, should write at a college level, and be prepared for differentiated assessment on tests and quizzes.

ECONOMICS **Level 4/5 Course # 1554 / 1555**

- Economics is the study of how individuals and societies make the decisions about how to transform their resources into the goods and services they want and need. This senior elective is divided into three parts. The first part deals with how and why markets work to create individual and social benefits, and what to do in cases of "market failure" or when markets fail to deliver benefits. The second part of the course focuses on microeconomic issues such as consumer choice, production decisions and how different types of markets operate. The third part will focus on macroeconomics issues related to the national or international economy such as how the financial markets work, the workings of the banking system, major national economic issues of unemployment and inflation, and the changes brought on by economic globalization. Students selecting this course should demonstrate pre-college level reading, writing, and math skills. This course

will develop skills involving problem-solving, decision-making, and recognizing causal relationships.

GOVERNMENT Level 4 Course # 1704

Prerequisite: Modern American History (can be taken in same year)

- This course explores the relationships between the American governmental system and its people by examining the issues that most affect the decision-making role citizens must assume in a participatory democracy. Students must be able to read and write above grade level. Students will develop a political vocabulary, acquire a practical knowledge of government operations, and systematically analyze current issues through the use of research, critical thinking, and decision-making techniques.

GENDER STUDIES Level 4/5 Course # 1544 / 1545

- This course examines gender in societies around the world, both past and present. Students will do this through study of the historical and contemporary roles of women in relation to men, the cultural expectations of women and men in different societies, and gender as it relates to social class, diversity, and identity. The class will address the nature vs. nurture debate, biological foundations of gender, and masculinity in America today. This course emphasizes contemporary gender issues and students will evaluate events in American and world history using gender as a lens to analyze these issues. Students are expected to complete a significant amount of independent reading outside of class, including supplementary articles and books. The class is grounded in discussion, reflection, and analysis of many of the themes and ideas introduced in course readings. Students will be expected to complete a book study in which they will select a book that relates to the course, analyze it, write a paper, and deliver a presentation to the class. Students enrolled in Level 5 of this course should write at an advanced level and be prepared for differentiated assessments on tests, quizzes, and projects.

REAL WORLD SOCIAL STUDIES

Level 3/4

Course #1313 / 1314

Prerequisite: None

- This course introduces students to several disciplines within social studies. Topics include personal finance, economics, psychology, gender studies, sociology, constitutional law, and government. A primary objective is to foster awareness and understanding of issues that will impact students' lives. The diversity of topics and applications will also provide students the opportunity to discover possible interests as they think critically about their own lives and inform their post-graduate decisions and plans. Students will be guided and supported with varied resources and instructional strategies as they engage in inquiry and self-directed learning. Current events will also be examined as they arise in multiple contexts.