

Social Studies

Course Name	World History 1-2
Course #	4101/4102
Credit	.5 credit/semester, World History credit
Length	Year
Grades	10
Prerequisite	None
Cost to student	None

The primary purpose is to provide students with a better understanding of their world through the study of the development of humanity and its institutions.

Course Name	AP European History
Course #	4125-4126
Credit	.5 credit/semester, World History credit
Length	Year
Grades	10
Prerequisite	None
Cost to student	Cost of AP exam (Up to \$87 depending on funding)

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. Without this knowledge, we would lack the context for understanding the development of contemporary institutions, the role of continuity and change in present-day society and politics, and the evolution of current forms of artistic expression and intellectual discourse. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of AP European History are to develop (a) an understanding of some of the principal 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.

Students are required to take the AP Exam in May.

Course Name	World Geography 1-2 (Honors)
Course #	4119/4120
Credit	.5 credit/semester, World History credit
Length	Year
Grades	10
Prerequisite	None
Cost to student	None

World Geography 1 Honors - Geography is the study of space and places on the Earth's surface. It is an integrative discipline that looks at the physical and human aspects of the Earth. Students will learn about the world by asking and answering geographic questions and by acquiring, organizing, and analyzing geographic information on global, national and local levels. The students will be encouraged to examine and understand the inter-connectedness of the world around them. Students will also be analyzing world demographics. An introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other computer applications will be provided and emphasized. Honors Geography is designed for students with strong skills and motivation.

Course Name	AP Human Geography
Course #	4181/4182
Credit	.5 credit/semester, World History credit
Length	Year
Grades	10
Prerequisite	Mandatory AP meeting in the spring of the year of preceding the course, Teacher recommendation
Cost to student	Cost of AP exam (Up to \$87 depending on funding)

AP Human Geography - Advanced Placement Human Geography is a college-level course designed to meet the equivalent objectives of an introductory level Human Geography course at most universities. The curriculum focuses on the seven content areas of the Advanced Placement exam: 1) Geography: Its Nature and Perspective, 2) Population, 3) Cultural Patterns and Processes, 4) Political Organization of Space, 5) Agriculture and Rural Land Use, 6) Industrialization and Economic Development, and 7) Cities and Urban Land Use. The course is designed for students with strong skills and motivation to learn. A strong interest and knowledge of world geography and current events will be helpful in this class. Plan to have homework 3-4 times a week, mostly consisting of reading. Activities will be the main focus of classroom instruction as geography is a "hands on" subject. There will also be some instruction to GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and other technologies related to the field of geography. Completion of a summer assignment is required to maintain enrollment. Additionally, per WCSD policy, taking the Advanced Placement exam is required in May

Course Name	US History 1-2
Course #	4131/4132
Credit	.5 credit/semester, US History credit
Length	Year
Grades	11
Prerequisite	None
Cost to student	None

Following a brief review of the time period from colonial America through Reconstruction period, this required course will focus on the economic, political, and social aspects of American history from the post-Reconstruction period through modern day. Students are challenged to question, interpret, and participate in the lessons of American history while gaining an understanding of the impact of the past on life today.

Course Name	Advanced Placement US History 1-2
Course #	4145/4146
Credit	.5 credit/semester, US History credit
Length	Year
Grades	11
Prerequisite	Mandatory AP meeting in the spring of the year of preceding the course, Teacher recommendation
Cost to student	Cost of AP exam (Up to \$87 depending on funding)

The AP U.S. History 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. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. The AP U.S. History course aims to develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

Course Name	American Studies/US History 1-2
Course #	4151/4152
Credit	.5 credit/semester, US History credit
Length	Year
Grades	11
Prerequisite	Enrolled in English 5-6 American Studies
Cost to student	None

American Studies/US History 1 - This two-period-block, two-credit, cross-curricular course will combine the study of American History and American Literature and will satisfy the U.S. History requirement and qualify for the Honor's Diploma in English only. Students may contract to earn an honor's credit in U.S. History. The course will be taught by two teachers--one from the Social Studies department and one from the English department in a unique "non-traditional" method. Since a major part of the class depends upon group and class discussions, oral presentations, and hands-on activities, a high level of maturity and ability to participate is both expected and required. Taken with American Studies 2

Course Name	American Government 1-2
Course #	4161/4162
Credit	.5 credit/semester, Government credit
Length	Year
Grades	12
Prerequisite	None
Cost to student	Field trip transportation costs

This required course will prepare students to be informed participants in the American political process. This course will help students understand the development and structure of the Constitution, 3 branches of federal government, State and local government, and various aspects of those institutions. 10 hours of community service are required.

Course Name	We the People (H)
Course #	4175/4176
Credit	.5 credit/semester, Government credit
Length	Year
Grades	12
Prerequisite	B or higher in American History
Cost to student	Optional \$89 for AP Government exam

The "We the People" instructional program provides students with the course of instruction on historical development of our Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the basic principles of constitutional democracy. The program is designed to foster civic responsibility through the development of an understanding of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the fundamental principle and values they embody. The program also helps the student gain and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our constitutional democracy. The "We the People" curriculum examines the following topics at levels appropriate for senior students at the high school/college level: Political Philosophy, history and experience, writing the constitution, establishing the government, protection of basic rights, and responsibilities of citizenship. Students in this course will be competing in simulated congressional hearings on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and will be giving oral presentations before a panel of 3 judges from the community. Students will be required to give unit presentations before other classes, community organizations, and community professionals. Students can still participate in the AP Government exam.

Course Name	AP US Government and Politics
Course #	4171/4172
Credit	.5 credit/semester, American Gvt credit
Length	Year
Grades	12
Prerequisite	Mandatory AP meeting in the spring of the year preceding the course, Teacher recommendation
Cost to student	Cost of AP exam (Up to \$87 depending on funding)

This introductory college course in United States government and politics will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. During the course, students will also build a familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics. Students enrolled in this course must take the AP examination in May to receive the AP designation.

Course Name	AP Comparative Government
Course #	4169/4169
Credit	.5 credit/semester, American Gvt credit
Length	Year
Grades	12
Prerequisite	Mandatory AP meeting in the spring of the year preceding the course, teacher recommendation
Cost to student	Cost of AP exam (Up to \$87 depending on funding)

The course introduces students to fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. The course aims to illustrate the rich diversity of political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes. In addition to covering the major concepts that are used to organize and interpret what we know about political phenomena and relationships, the course will cover specific countries and their governments including China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria and Russia. Students enrolled in this course must take the AP examination in May to receive the AP designation.

