



COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2017-2018

REQUIRED SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

MODERN WORLD HISTORY

5 Periods

Grade 9

1 Social Studies credit: World History

This course examines world events from 1600 to the present. It explores the impact of the democratic and industrial revolutions, the forces that led to world domination by European powers, the wars that changed empires, the ideas that led to independence movements and the effects of global interdependence. Historical thinking skills continue to build as students analyze primary and secondary sources from multiple perspectives to support claims with evidence. This course is aligned with Ohio's Learning Standards and includes instruction in the study of world history and civilizations as required by Substitute House Bill 367.

HUMANITIES: MODERN WORLD HISTORY

5 Periods

Grade 9

1 Social Studies credit: World History

This course examines world events from 1600 to the present combined with English 9 in a humanities approach. It explores the impact of the democratic and industrial revolutions, the forces that led to world domination by European powers, the wars that changed empires, the ideas that led to independence movements and the effects of global interdependence. Historical thinking skills continue to build as students analyze primary and secondary sources from multiple perspectives to support claims with evidence. The humanities approach has students explore literature, history, art, music, and drama. The course incorporates Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies and English Language Arts and includes instruction in the study of world history and civilizations as required by Substitute House Bill 367. The course is taught in an interdisciplinary approach with faculty collaboration and/or team teaching.

AMERICAN HISTORY

5 Periods

Grade 10

1 Social Studies credit: American History

This course examines the history of the United States of America from 1877 to the present. The federal republic has withstood challenges to its national security and expanded the rights and roles of its citizens. The episodes of its past have shaped the nature of the country today and prepared it to attend to the challenges of tomorrow. Understanding how these events came to pass and their meaning for today's citizens is the purpose of this course. Historical thinking skills continue to build as students analyze primary and secondary sources from multiple perspectives to support claims with evidence. This course is aligned with Ohio's Learning Standards and includes the study of historical documents in compliance with Amended Substitute Senate Bill 165 and the economics and financial literacy content defined by Amended Substitute Senate Bill 311.

HUMANITIES: AMERICAN HISTORY

5 Periods

Grade 10

1 Social Studies credit: American History

This course examines the history of the United States of America from 1877 to the present combined with English 10 in a humanities approach. The federal republic has withstood challenges to its national security and expanded the rights and roles of its citizens. The episodes of its past have shaped the nature of the country today and prepared it to attend to the challenges of tomorrow. Understanding how these events came to pass and their meaning for today's citizens is the purpose of this course. Historical thinking skills continue to build as students analyze primary and secondary sources from multiple perspectives to support claims with evidence. The humanities approach has students explore literature, history, art, music, and drama. The course incorporates Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies and English Language Arts and includes the study of historical documents in compliance with Amended Substitute Senate Bill 165 and the economics and financial literacy content defined by Amended Substitute Senate Bill 311. The course is taught in an interdisciplinary approach with faculty collaboration and/or team teaching.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

5 Periods

Grade 11

1 Social Studies credit: American Government

How the American people govern themselves at national, state and local levels of government is the basis for this course. Students will examine such topics as public policy, elections and voting, constitutional principles, the Bill of Rights, law and justice, and economics and financial literacy. This course also aims to empower students to be active, engaged citizens by providing them with the knowledge and skills they need to successfully participate and create change in their communities. This course is aligned with Ohio's Learning Standards and includes the study of historical documents in compliance with Amended Substitute Senate Bill 165 and the economics and financial literacy content defined by Amended Substitute Senate Bill 311.

ACADEMIC ELECTIVE SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES**AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**

5 Periods

Grades 11-12

1 Social Studies credit: Other/Academic Elective

Students will study the African American experience from its African origin to its American present using an inquiry-based approach. The course will focus on the roles that Africans and African Americans have played in World and American history. Students will analyze fundamental concepts of African American history: civilization, culture, slave trade, migration, discrimination, and civil rights. Students will develop reading, thinking, research, writing, study skills through projects, community and school service. They will be involved in research and examining the historical facts about African Americans that have been omitted from American and World history. The values of respecting rights and responsibilities of all cultures will be emphasized.

GLOBAL ISSUES

5 Periods

Grades 11-12

1 Social Studies credit: Other/Academic Elective

This course examines contemporary social, political, economic, and environmental issues in the 21st century world using an inquiry-based approach. The dynamics of global interactions among nations and regions present issues that affect all humanity. Issues to be explored include: collective security, foreign policy, terrorism, human rights, immigration, international trade, health crises and sustainability. Students will examine problems and solutions from multiple perspectives, and learn how individuals and groups have the capacity to impact global issues.

LAW

5 Periods

Grades 11-12

1 Social Studies credit: Other/Academic Elective

The course is designed to provide students with an understanding of their constitutional and legal rights and responsibilities and knowledge of everyday legal problems. Using an inquiry-based approach, students will learn about the fundamental principles and values of the American governmental and legal systems. Topics include civil liberties, constitutional law, consumer law, family law, and juvenile justice. This course also aims to empower students to be active, engaged citizens by providing them with the knowledge and skills they need to successfully participate and create change in their communities.

SOCIOLOGY/PSYCHOLOGY

5 periods

Grades 11-12

1 Social Studies credit: Other/Academic Elective

Students will study the factors that influence individual and group behavior using an inquiry-based approach. In sociology, students will study how groups, family structure, cultural variations influence an individual's behavior, and the role of education and religion. Students will be encouraged to develop objective attitudes through reading, experiments, discussions, surveys, and polls. In psychology, they will examine such concepts as intelligence, emotions, attitudes, personality, self-concept, motivation, and thinking.

ADVANCED SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES**AP UNITED STATES HISTORY**

5 periods

Grades 10-12

1 Social Studies credit: American History or Other/Academic Elective

The AP program in United States History is a college-level course and is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with 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 will learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance – and to weigh the evidence interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP United States History course will 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. Emphasis is placed upon taking and scoring a 3, 4 or 5 on the College Board's AP United States History exam in May.

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 5 periods
Grades 11-12 1 Social Studies credit: American Government or Other/Academic Elective

Students will gain a critical and analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute United States politics. The topics include: Constitutional history of United States Government; political behavior; political parties, interest groups, and mass media; public policy; civil rights and civil liberties. This is taught as a college-level course and helps students prepare for the College Board's AP exam in May. Emphasis is placed upon taking and scoring a 3, 4 or 5 on the College Board's AP American Government and Politics exam in May. This course will also satisfy the American Government requirement.

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 5 periods
Grades 11-12 1 Social Studies credit: Other/Academic Elective

The AP course in Comparative Government and Politics 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. Comparison assists both in identifying problems and in analyzing policymaking. Six countries form the core of the AP Comparative Government and Politics course: China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. By using these six countries, the course can move the discussion of concepts from abstract definition to concrete example, noting that not all concepts will be equally useful in all country settings.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY 5 periods
Grades 11-12 1 Social Studies credit: Other/Academic Elective

The AP program in European History, 1450 to present, introduces students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping European and world history, conflict and continuity in society and politics, and the evolution of artistic and intellectual work. The course helps students prepare for the AP College Board Exam. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of the AP program in 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 (c) an ability to analyze and to express historical understanding in writing. Emphasis is placed upon taking and scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on the College Board's AP European History exam in May.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Grades 11-12

5 periods

1 Social Studies credit: Other/Academic Elective

The purpose of the AP Human Geography course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students learn to employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. Students will develop skills that enable them to: interpret maps and analyze geospatial data; understand and explain the implications of associations and networks among phenomena in places; recognize and interpret the relationships among patterns and processes at different scales of analysis; define regions and evaluate the regionalization process; and characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places.

AP WORLD HISTORY

Grades 11-12

5 Periods

1 Social Studies credit: Other/Academic Elective

AP World History 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.

KAP AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Grades 11-12

5 Periods

1 Social Studies credit: Other/Academic Elective

The KAP African American History course is part of the Kenyon College Articulation Program. It is designed to challenge high-achieving, motivated seniors. Students use college-level textbooks and may receive both high school and college credit. The course will examine the enslaved: who they were, how they lived, and how the nation was transformed by their presence and experience and how that experience helped to shape American social, political, intellectual and economic systems. Students will be challenged to analyze issues and arrive at their own conclusions as a result of readings and discussion.

KAP AMERICAN HISTORY

Grades 10-12

5 Periods

1 Social Studies credit: American History or Other/Academic Elective

The KAP American History is part of the Kenyon College Articulation Program. It is a college-level course spanning from the seventeenth century until the recent past. The course is designed to help students discover what has influenced and made the America we have today. Students use college level textbooks and receive both college and high school credit. Class discussion and

participation is integral to the make-up of the course. Students are expected to keep up with reading and be independently motivated on assignments. Course evaluation consists of opinion and research papers as well as essay exams.

KAP INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

5 periods

Grades 11-12

1 Social Studies credit: Other/Academic Elective

The KAP Introduction to Psychology course is part of the Kenyon College Articulation Program. Students use college-level textbooks and may receive both high school and college credit. It includes a semester of Introduction to Psychology and a semester of Social Psychology. The first is an introductory course, which is a prerequisite to all of the other psychology courses. Students explore a variety of areas in which psychologists conduct research. For example, students will study the biological foundations of behavior, sensory and perceptual processes, learning and memory processes, developmental psychology, personality and social psychology, psychological disorders, and other issues. In Social Psychology students will examine how people are affected by their social environment: how people perceive and interpret the behavior of others and the social situation, how we respond to others and they to us, and the nature of social relationships. Application of social psychological theory and methodology is encouraged through participation in small-scale laboratory or field observational studies.

KAP POLITICAL SCIENCE

5 periods

Grades 11-12

1 Social Studies credit: American Government or Other/Academic Elective

The KAP Political Science is part of the Kenyon College Articulation Program. Students use college-level textbooks and may receive both high school and college credit. This course, which emphasizes the development of reading, writing, and speaking skills, is an introduction to the serious discussion of the most important questions concerning political relations and human well-being. These are controversial issues that in the contemporary world take the form of debates about multiculturalism, diversity, separatism, gender equality, and the like; but, as students will discover, these are issues rooted in perennial questions about justice. Some of the units studied include: the Constitution, federalism, public opinion and the media, campaigns and elections, Congress, the Supreme Court, and civil rights and liberties. Students are required to write research papers on books read in class.