

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - SOCIAL STUDIES

COLLEGE-PREP AMERICAN HISTORY 9 - 0301 1900 to Present

Grade 9
REQUIRED (1 credit)

Purpose: This course will help students gain an understanding of key events, people, and ideas that have shaped the United States of America through the 20th and 21st Centuries. Students will develop higher level thinking skills through their study of American History and how events of the past have impacted our country and continue to shape our lives today.

Course Description: This course explores the American political, economic, social, and cultural developments from 1900 to the present.

Requirements: Primary and secondary readings, note-taking, class participation, presentations and speeches, journaling, debating, researching from print and online sources, working in groups, essay and objective testing, researching and writing papers are required.

Recommendations: Successful completion of previous social studies courses.

Prerequisites: None

HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY 9 - 0300 1900 to Present

Grade 9
REQUIRED (1 credit)

Purpose: This course is designed for the accelerated student with strong interest and high skill level development in social studies. The course will help students gain an understanding of key events, people, and ideas that have shaped the United States of America through the 20th and 21st Centuries. Students will develop higher level thinking skills through their study of American History and how events of the past have impacted our country and continue to shape our lives today.

Course Description: This course explores in depth the American political, economic, social, and cultural developments from 1900 to the present.

Requirements: Primary and secondary readings, note-taking, class participation, presentations and speeches, journaling, debating, researching from print and online sources, working in groups, essay and objective testing, and writing research papers are required. Significant amounts of work are required outside of class.

Recommendations: Students should have earned a 93% in their regular social studies classes.

Prerequisites: Please refer to Honors Entrance Requirements. Students who take Honors American History must also enroll in Honors English 9.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY / COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I – 4000

Grade 9
REQUIRED (1 credit)

Purpose: The Pennsylvania History course is designed to help students understand the history of Pennsylvania. Students will examine the political, economic, social, and cultural events that have shaped our great state. Students will also analyze the state constitution and government structure. Computer Applications I: Computers have altered our language, our habits, our environment, and the way we live. Computers directly and indirectly affect our lives every day. This course will give students knowledge and skill with computers and prepare them to function in our computer driven world. This course will also enhance their learning for all other classes here at Fairview, as they will become proficient with necessary computer skills as a freshman.

PA History Description: Students will trace the people and events that influenced the growth and development of Pennsylvania. Students will also analyze the current political and economic structures of our state. A brief and intense geography skills unit will also be incorporated in the course.

Computer Applications I Description: The half-credit course of Computer Applications I covers a full range of computer and processing concepts. Computer ethics, along with the components of a computer and how they work, are covered early in the course. The Internet is introduced early and frequented often throughout the entire course with projects that interweave the Internet with other areas of the curriculum and software. Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Excel) is covered extensively including multitasking projects that require switching between two or more programs simultaneously. Other network software covered includes Geometer's Sketchpad, as well as other curriculum specific software. Current computer topics and trends are addressed throughout the course.

Requirements: Students will take objective and essay tests. Research projects, reports, individual and group presentations will also be required. Computer Applications will require the student to demonstrate working knowledge of each concept, each software package, and the Internet (including on-line services) by one or more of the following methods: written tests, individual and cooperative projects, presentations, computer performance, and research projects..

COLLEGE-PREP WORLD HISTORY 10 – 0305

**Grade 10
REQUIRED (1 credit)**

Purpose: This course is designed to provide the students with an understanding of past events in world history, and to help them understand the world around them. Students will be made aware of the global nature of the world we live in.

Course Description: The 10th Grade World History course will provide a solid foundation of world history as well as an introduction to the major world cultures from 1450 until the present. The course will introduce our students to other regions and cultures of the world. It will serve as a general survey course on world history, and culture. The course will focus on the major events in western civilization from 1450 until present. This will include major world thinkers, leaders and personalities as well as political, economic, cultural, and political happenings in the west.

Requirements: Study guides, objective tests, research and primary document analysis, outside reading, online learning activities, group activities, and research paper.

Class Requirements: Successful completion of the 9th grade American History class.

HONORS WORLD HISTORY 10 – 0304

**Grade 10
REQUIRED (1 credit)**

Purpose: This course is designed to provide the students with an understanding a past events in world history, and to help them understand the world around them. Students will be made aware of the global nature of the world we live in.

Course Description: The 10th Grade World History course will provide a solid foundation of world history as well as an introduction to the major world cultures from 1450 until the present. The course will introduce our students to other regions and cultures of the world. It will serve as a general survey course on world history, and culture. The course will focus on the major events in western civilization from 1450 until present. This will include major world thinkers, leaders and personalities as well as political, economic, cultural, and political happenings in the west.

Requirements: Study guides, daily reading quizzes, objective and essay tests, research and primary document analysis, outside reading, Online learning activities, group activities, and research paper.

Class Requirements: Successful completion of the 9th grade Honors American History class or must have the grades and teacher referrals.

COLLEGE PREP AMERICAN GOVERNMENT / ECONOMICS 11 – 0309

**Grade 11
REQUIRED (1 credit)**

Purpose: This course is designed to give students an understanding of the foundations of American Government. It will also acquaint students with the principles of Economics.

Course Description: the first half of the course will focus on the origins and principles of American Government. Students will examine our Constitution, political parties, the electoral process and interest groups. Students will also understand their role as citizens. The second part of the course covers the three major economic systems – capitalism, socialism, and communism – as they exist today. The major emphasis is on the free enterprise system. Basic concepts studied include principles of both micro and macroeconomics. The application of these principles is reinforced with appropriate assignments.

Requirements: This course will require a term paper, essay and objective tests, individual and group presentations, oral and written reports, a stock market game and various class projects.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of 9th grade American History and 10th grade World Cultures.

HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS/ECONOMICS 11 - 0308

**Grade 11
REQUIRED (1 credit)**

Purpose: This course will provide students with an in-depth look at the foundations of American Government and the principles of Economics. Students will study the structure of our government and evaluate political behavior. Students will also develop a better understanding of how free enterprise works.

Course Description: Students will engage in a historical analysis of the Constitution, political parties, voter behavior, the electoral process, interest groups and the media's influence of public opinion. Students will also develop a better understanding and appreciation of their role as citizens of the United States. The second half of the course compares the three major economic systems with an emphasis on micro and macroeconomics in the free enterprise system. Students will focus on the government's role in establishing economic stability.

Requirements: This course will require a research paper, essay and objective tests, group and individual presentations, class discussions and debates, and various portfolios assignments. Students will be required to do a significant amount of primary source reading. They will also be required to participate in an independent investment project.

Recommendations: Successful completion of the 9th grade Honors American History and 10th grade Honors World Cultures courses.

Prerequisites: Please refer to Honors Entrance Requirements.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY – 0314
[Offered 2006-2007]

Grade 11, 12
ELECTIVE (1 credit)

Purpose: This course is designed to allow the student to experience a college level Euro centric social studies course. The course is structured to prepare the students to take and pass the AP European History examination.

Course Description: Advanced Placement European History is a survey course covering the period from 1450 to the present. This is a challenging course that focuses on the social, political, economic, intellectual, and cultural aspects of European history.

Requirements: This is a college level course for strong history students who are capable of coping with a large amount of daily reading. Students will also do a reasonable amount of analysis of primary documents.

Prerequisites: The students should have maintained an 85% average or better in the Honors social studies curriculum, or a 93% average or better in college bound courses. Students are encouraged to take AP Communications 12, which provides support in the areas of art, literature, and music to the historical events of European history.

COLLEGE-PREP PSYCHOLOGY / SOCIOLOGY – 0315

*Grade 12
ELECTIVE (1 credit)*

Purpose: This course is designed to introduce students to the science of psychology, to acquaint students with major theories of motivation, personality development, social influence of motivation, social influences; and to aid students in developing a positive self-concept. The second half of this course is designed to help students gain insights into their own social relationships and develop a better understanding of their ever-changing world.

Course Description: The course highlights the major theories of the science of psychology including personality development, motivations, learning theories, intelligence, social influences, and abnormal behavior. It also teaches students about the methods of the science. Sociology is concerned with the behavior of the individual as it is affected by the group(s) to which he/she belongs. It also studies the behavior and functions of groups within a society.

Requirements: Students are required to complete reading assignments in text and other sources, to write brief essays on assigned topics, to complete successfully objective tests, and to participate in class discussions and group work. This college-bound course will require fifteen hours of community service or a research paper, essay, and objective tests, and the completion of individual and class oriented psychological and sociological studies.

Prerequisites: None

AP PSYCHOLOGY – 0316

*Grade 11, 12
ELECTIVE (1 credit)*

Purpose: This course is designed to give students interested in psychology the opportunity to pursue and receive credit for college level course work.

Course Description: Advanced Placement Psychology will introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavioral and mental processes of human beings and animals. Students also will learn about the methods psychologists use in practice. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Psychology examination.

Requirements: Class participation, primary and secondary readings, oral presentations, and short papers. Fifteen hours of community service are required.

Recommendations: The student should have maintained an 85% average in the honors social studies curriculum or a 93% average in college bound courses.

Prerequisites: Students must complete outside work early during the first semester.

CURRENT EVENTS / LAW FOR THE YOUNG ADULT – 0317

*Grades 12
ELECTIVE (1 credit)*

Purpose: This course will help students develop analytical and evaluation skills through a study of local, state, national, and international events, as well as a study of the US legal justice system.

Course Description: Students will utilize a combination of materials, including texts, newspapers,

periodicals, and online resources to study American and global political, economic, social, and legal issues..

Requirements: Primary and secondary readings, note-taking, class participation, presentations and speeches, journaling, debating, researching from print and online sources, working in groups, essay and objective testing, and writing short papers are required.

Recommendations: Successful completion of previous social studies courses.

Prerequisites: None

AP AMERICAN HISTORY – 0319
[Offered 2006-2007]

Grade 11, 12
ELECTIVE (1 credit)

Purpose: This course is designed to give students an intensive study of American History from the colonial Period to present. AP American History will prepare students for the AP Exam and develop skills appropriate for college level American History courses.

Description: AP American History is a study of the chronology of American history. The course will provide students with a solid foundation of facts as well as a structure for examining the context and significance of these facts. Topics include Colonial America before 1763. The Era of the American Reconstruction, The Growth of Industrial America, Populists and Progressives 1877-1916, World War I, the Inter-War Period and World War II 1916-1945, The Post War Period and the Cold War to present.

Requirements: Objective and essay tests, outside reading and research, group and individual projects, oral and written reports, summer readings, class projects.

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation. Students are required to have had two (2) courses in social studies with an A or B.