

# SOCIAL STUDIES

The study of people and events in our world, past, present and future, is so significant and so vast that the following courses in the Social Studies Department can only attempt to provide you with an introduction to your world and to help you develop important skills that might affect meaningful changes.

All students are required to have four years of Social Studies for graduation and are encouraged to take a 5<sup>th</sup> year elective. Seniors are required by state law to take one semester of Economics and one of Politics and Government. However, these requirements can be met in a variety of ways.

## NINTH GRADE

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 9 REGENTS - GLOBAL HISTORY I**

This is the first course in a two-year sequence that culminates in Global History and Geography Regents Examination. The course presents the major historical and cultural events from the Neolithic period through the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Students will work with primary and secondary source documents and develop reading, writing, and analytical skills.

**NOTE:** SOCIAL STUDIES 9 HONORS – New York State requires that all students complete two years of Global History and Geography. All ninth grade students must complete the Regents curriculum; however, students will be given the opportunity to earn honors credit within their Social Studies class.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Social Studies 8

**NOTE:** All 9<sup>th</sup> grade English and Social Studies classes will be paired and scheduled to meet during consecutive periods. This will permit flexible use of class time and grouping of students as well as create opportunities for inter-disciplinary instruction.

## TENTH GRADE

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 10 REGENTS - GLOBAL HISTORY II**

This is the second course in the sequence that culminates in the Global History Regents. The course presents events from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. Students will compare and contrast trends occurring at the same time in the various societies of Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Emphasis will be on analysis of primary source documents, writing skills, and preparation for the Regents.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Global History Regents required.

**NOTE:** AP WORLD HISTORY – Students in Global History will have the opportunity to earn AP credit and sit for the AP exam in May.

### **A.P. WORLD HISTORY**

A.P. World History offers qualified, motivated sophomores the opportunity to “do history” by guiding them through the steps a historian would take in analyzing historical events and evidence worldwide. The course offers balanced global coverage, including Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

This course is rigorous and demanding. It is intended to be a college-level history course and students can expect to spend 7-10 hours per week reading, writing, and analyzing historical material.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Global History I and  
Department recommendation.

## ELEVENTH GRADE

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 11 REGENTS – UNITED STATES HISTORY, GOVERNMENT AND GEOGRAPHY**

This course traces U. S. History from the formation of our country and the writing of the Constitution to the present. Upon the completion of this course, all students will take the U. S. History Regents.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Global History

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 11 – ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN HISTORY**

The Advanced Placement course in American History is a college level course designed for those students entering 11<sup>th</sup> grade who have demonstrated high level critical thinking skills, the ability to write thematic and DBQ essays, and are able to read and synthesize college-level material. Students must be prepared to devote a minimum of seven-ten hours per week of preparation outside the classroom in order to adequately complete the reading and writing assignments.

In May, students will be required to prepare for and take the Advanced Placement Exam in American History. In addition in June, students will be required to take the Regents exam in American History.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Social Studies 10 Regents and  
Department recommendation.

Those not receiving the department recommendation will be required to following the self-selection procedure.

## TWELFTH GRADE

Twelfth grade students must successfully complete one semester of Government and one semester of Economics. The AP Economics course the AP European History course and the AP US Government Course are appropriate options for those students who meet the academic requirements. Seniors should also consider the interdisciplinary senior options listed below.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 12 - ADVANCED PLACEMENT ECONOMICS**

The AP Economics course is a full-year college level course designed for those students who have demonstrated marked proficiency in the Social Studies area and have an aptitude in math and quantitative analysis.

A minimum of six-eight hours of outside work per week will be required to adequately complete the reading and writing assignments. In addition, students will complete the Politics and Government requirement through community service or research projects. In May, student will be required to prepare for and take both microeconomics and macroeconomics AP Examinations.

1 unit of credit  
History and

Prerequisite: Social Studies 11 or AP American  
Department recommendation. Those not

receiving the  
to follow the self-

department recommendation will be required  
selection procedure.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES 12 - ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY**

The Advanced Placement European History course is a college level course designed for 12<sup>th</sup> graders who read and write at a level of freshmen attending selective universities, who work well independently, who have fully developed study skills and who enjoy intellectual discussions in the pursuit of knowledge. The curriculum focuses on the following themes: political, intellectual, cultural, social and economic patterns in the study of seven countries over a span of five hundred years.

Students will develop an appreciation for the art, literature and philosophical contributions made by those who created our Western heritage.

Students will participate in research seminars in Economics and take Politics & Government through an independent student based on community services or research projects.

In May, all students will prepare for and take the AP exam in European History.

1 unit of credit  
History and  
receiving the  
to follow the self-

Prerequisite: Social Studies 11 or AP American  
Department recommendation. Those not  
department recommendation will be required  
selection procedure.

### **AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

The Advanced Placement course in U.S. Government is a full year college level course designed for those students entering 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade who have demonstrated a high level of ability in critical reading, writing, and thinking skills. Students must be prepared to devote a minimum of three-five hours per week of preparation outside of the classroom in order to adequately complete the reading and writing assignments.

In May, student will be required to prepare for and take the Advanced Placement Exam in U. S. Government. This course satisfies the Politics and Government requirements for senior year; however, it does not satisfy the New York State Economics requirement.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Social Studies 10 and Department  
recommendation

### **CITIZENS OF THE WORLD**

Today, high school students live in a globalized society and are citizens in a global world. To be successful citizens, students need to be knowledgeable about the world outside of Great Neck, New York, and even the United States. Using a multidisciplinary perspective, students will understand the global forces that affect our lives and understand the diversity of the human experience. Their concern for worldly issues will develop their global identity. This course is designed to explore current trends in political, economic and social mores in specific areas around the world whose influence permeates the world in which we live. This program will develop students' understanding of world events in a digital learning environment.

Citizens of the World is a two-period, two-credit program that fulfills the 12<sup>th</sup> grade English and Social Studies requirements.

2 units of credit

Prerequisite: American History

### **GRAPHIC LITERATURE:**

This is an interdisciplinary class developed by the English, Social Studies, and Fine Arts departments. It is for students who have a strong interest in creative storytelling. The emphasis of the course is on the processes inherent in the composition of graphic literature, and the examination, analysis, and creation of the textual and visual elements of comics. Students will study literature, style, politics, history, visual art and the relationship among these disciplines.

This course will culminate with the development, organization and implementation of a school-wide convention, during which students will present the original works they have created.

Graphic Literature is a three-period, three-credit course which fulfills the 12<sup>th</sup> grade English and Social Studies requirements and also grants an elective credit in Fine Arts.

3 units of credit

Prerequisite: American History

### **REFLECTIONS - A LOOK AT OURSELVES AND THE CREATION OF MODERN SOCIETY**

This is a humanities course with a community service component. The school week will be divided between interdisciplinary studies and community service activities. The academic curriculum will explore Nobel Prize-winning literature and societal and historical issues of the time period in which selected novels and plays were written. Students will explore the lives of the authors, the psychology of the time frame and how these forces helped to create the world in which we live.

Students will participate in an ongoing community service activity twice a week throughout the year. Each student will select a non-profit organization of particular interest to him/her and will commit to the organization for the entire year.

REFLECTIONS is a two-period, two credit course that fulfills the 12<sup>th</sup> grade English and Social Studies requirements and grants a community service credit. Students may earn A.P. English credit by participation in an additional seminar.

2 units of credit

Prerequisite: American History

### **SENIOR SEMINAR**

This is a team-taught interdisciplinary class combining Social Studies, English and Business. Students are offered a unique opportunity to explore the social, historical, political and economic trends of a specific American decade while they read literature and examine other media from that time period. Students will also research an area of interest from a particular decade such as music, technology, politics, art fashion, or business. In the spring, students will participate in a business internship.

SENIOR SEMINAR is a three-period, three credit course program that fulfills the 12<sup>th</sup> grade English and Social Studies requirements and grants an elective credit.

3 credits

Prerequisite: American History

## **ELECTIVES**

### **A.P. PSYCHOLOGY**

This full year AP course introduces students to the discipline of psychology and explores the history of psychology, the different theoretical approaches that underline explanations of behavior, and the contemporary research methods used by psychologists.

The course traces the emergence of psychology in the nineteenth century, and covers the development of the major “schools of thought” of psychology. Units include: biological bases of behavior, perception, social psychology, treatments of psychological disorders, consciousness, and learning. Students learn how these approaches guide research and to use statistics in analyzing data. Students will be required to prepare for and take the AP examination in May.

1 unit of credit  
Department

Prerequisite: Social Studies 10 Regents and recommendation.

Those not receiving department recommendation will be required to meet with counselor, department head and parents to ensure full awareness of the high level of commitment and skill required to succeed in AP Psychology. This course is offered to qualified juniors and seniors as an elective. This course does not fulfill any New York State requirements.

### **PSYCHOLOGY**

The study of psychology is often associated with mental illness and/or therapy. Students are usually fascinated by psychology because of their own experiences or the prevalence of mental illness in movies and the media. Psychology is the systematic, scientific study of behaviors and mental processes. In essence, psychologists attempt to explain why people do what they do. This one-semester elective offers students interested in psychology an opportunity to explore some of the more exciting topics in an introductory course, without the demands of the A.P. curriculum and culminating A.P. exam. This course is intended as a companion to Sociology.

½ unit of credit  
considered for or

Prerequisite: Juniors and seniors not interested in AP Psychology.

### **FACING HISTORY**

The course begins with a study of the individual and society, the development of stereotypes and prejudices and their impact on history and historical decision-making. Students will study the rise of the Nazis, conformity and obedience, the Holocaust, bystanders and rescuers, judgment and the Nuremberg trials, the historical legacies of the Holocaust, and other human rights crises of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The culminating activity of the course will focus on the ability of the individual to choose to participate and to become an upstander in times of crisis.

½ unit of credit