

# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES

## WORLD GEOGRAPHY STUDIES

*Grade: 9*

*Prerequisites: none*

*Credit: 1 required for graduation; ½ credit per semester*

*Note: (World Geography Prep/PreAP or AP Human Geography will complete 9th grade social studies credit)*

World Geography is a two-semester course. Students examine physical geography, political geography, cultural geography, and economic geography. A significant portion of the course explores the influence of physical geography on events past and present. It explores how physical geography has shaped political, cultural, and economic geography. The course also emphasizes basic geography skills and interpreting data. The eight strands of the essential knowledge and skills for social studies are integrated into this course. To support the teaching of these strands, a variety of primary and secondary source materials such as contemporary and historic maps, satellite-produced images, photographs, graphs, and diagrams will be used. Students will also use problem-solving and decision-making skills to answer geographic questions. Upon completion of the course students should have an understanding of how cultures and countries interact with each other and their environment. Students are encouraged to participate in competitive events, such as the History Fair, essay contests, and academic tournaments. The TAKS exam uses material from this course.

## WORLD GEOGRAPHY STUDIES - PRE AP

*Grade: 9*

*Prerequisites: teacher recommendation and grades*

*Credit: 1 required for graduation; ½ credit per semester*

*Note: (World Geography Prep/PreAP or AP Human Geography will complete 9th grade social studies credit)* World Geography is a two-semester course. Students examine physical geography, political geography, cultural geography, and economic geography. A significant portion of the course explores the influence of physical geography on events past and present. It explores how physical geography has shaped political, cultural, and economic geography. The course emphasizes basic geographic skills and their application, data interpretation, demographic information, ecology and the natural environment. The eight strands of the essential knowledge and skills for social studies are integrated into this course. To support the teaching of these strands, a variety of primary and secondary source materials will be utilized. These include historic and contemporary maps, satellite-produced images, photographs, graphs, sketches, political documents, and editorial cartoons. Students analyze, compare and contrast, use problem-solving and decision-making skills in order to understand complex content material and supplementary material. Upon completion of the course students should have a spatial perspective of the world and understanding of how countries and cultures interact with each other and their environment. Students are required to read one novel with a geographic theme and to participate in various competitive events, such as the History Fair, essay contests, and academic events. The TAKS exam uses material from this course.

## WORLD HISTORY - PREPARATORY

*Grade: 10*

*Prerequisites: none*

*Credit: 1 required for graduation; ½ credit per semester*

World History is a two-semester survey class. The curriculum presents world history from the development of early civilization, the historical development of Western Civilization, and the historical development of Russia, Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America through the 20th century. Emphasis is on the study of significant people, events, and issues from the earliest times to the present. Students analyze important events and issues in world civilizations, evaluate their causes and effects, trace the history and impact of major events, and use the process of historical inquiry to research, interpret, and use multiple sources of evidence, both primary and secondary. The course requires outside readings, projects, and research. The TAKS Exit Level Exam includes information from this course.

## **AP WORLD HISTORY**

*Grade: 10*

*Prerequisites: teacher recommendation and grades*

*Credit: 1 required for graduation; ½ credit per semester*

World History is a two-semester survey class. The curriculum presents world history from the development of early civilization, the historical development of Western Civilization, and the historical development of Russia, Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America through the 20th century. Emphasis is on the study of significant people, events and issues from the earliest times to the present. Students analyze important events and issues in world civilizations, evaluate their causes and effects, trace the history and impact of major events, and use the process of historical inquiry to research, interpret, and use multiple sources of evidence, both primary and secondary. The course uses biographies and autobiographies, speeches and letters, poetry, songs, and artworks, some of which may be controversial. The course requires outside readings, projects, and research. The TAKS Level Exam includes information from this course. Students are urged to participate in competitive events, such as the Chronicle Editorial Cartoon Contest, essay contests, and academic events.

## **UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE RECONSTRUCTION - PREP**

*Grade: 11*

*Prerequisites: none*

*Credit: 1 required for graduation; ½ credit per semester*

United States History is a two-semester course. It covers all major historical events that played a significant role in shaping the economic, social, and cultural development of America from 1865 to the present. It includes study of the following areas relative to the United States including Reconstruction of Post-Civil War America, emergence as a world power, geographic influences on its historical development, economic development and growth, social and cultural development and political development. Students use primary and secondary source material such as biographies, autobiographies, landmark cases of the Supreme Court, speeches, letters, diaries, poetry, songs, and artworks to understand the past, and critical-thinking skills to explain and apply different methods that historians use to interpret events from the past. Students are encouraged to participate in various competitive events, such as History Fair, essay contests, or academic events.

## **AP U S HISTORY SINCE RECONSTRUCTION**

*Grade: 11*

*Prerequisites: A or B average in previous Social Studies class; teacher recommendation*

*Credit: 1 credit required for graduation; ½ credit per semester*

AP United States History is a one-credit survey course for students who meet the criteria for the Advanced Placement Program. This course examines significant people, places, events, concepts, movements, and philosophies in American history from pre-Columbian times through the 20th century. Students will use college level texts and supplementary materials. Emphasis is placed upon knowledge acquisition, analysis of primary and secondary documents (some of which may be controversial), historical interpretations, critical thinking and independent study and research. Students will take the AP exam in United States History at the end of the class.

This class counts as the state required United States history credit. Students are encouraged to participate in competitive events, such as History Fair, essay contests, or academic events.

## **UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT - PREPARATORY**

*Grade: 12*

*Prerequisites: none*

*Credit: ½ credit required for graduation*

United States Government is a one-semester course. Students will be exposed to the origins of political thought and the development of the American constitutional system. Topics covered in the course include: the Articles of Confederation, the U. S. Constitution, Federalism, the three branches of government, voting rights and suffrage, political parties, interest groups, and the federal bureaucracy. Students analyze primary source documents, the relationship between governmental policies and the culture of the United States, evaluate the importance of voluntary individual participation in a democratic society, and use critical-thinking skills in a variety of activities. Students are encouraged to participate in competitive events such as essay contests and academic events.

## **AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

*Grade: 12*

*Prerequisites: A or B average in previous social studies class; teacher recommendation*

*Credit: ½ credit required for graduation*

This one semester AP course satisfies the government required for graduation. This course covers the foundations of the U.S. political system and development, structures, and functions of the U.S. governmental system. Students begin with an awareness of the ideological and philosophical traditions upon which the Constitution is based. Students evaluate how the Constitution limits the government through federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, civil rights and liberties and through political participation. Students study each of the branches and their importance to our governing system. Students will be using a state approved college level textbook and supplementary reader. All students will be required to analyze and evaluate primary and secondary sources and also complete research assignments and essays. Students will take the AP exam at the end of the course. Students are encouraged to participate in competitive events, such as essay contests and academic events.

## **ECONOMICS - FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM**

*Grade: 12*

*Prerequisites: none*

*Credit: ½ credit required for graduation*

Economics is a one-semester course. Students are involved in analysis of fundamental economics concepts such as supply and demand, scarcity, consumption, the business cycle, exchange, income accounting, employment theory, cyclical fluctuation, money, credit, banking, and consumer economic issues.

## **AP MACRO ECONOMICS**

*Grade: 12*

*Prerequisites: A or B in previous social studies class; teacher recommendation*

*Credit: ½ credit; this class will meet graduation requirements for economics This one semester course satisfies the ½ credit for graduation*

Macroeconomics is designed to help students with a thorough understanding of principles of economics in the United States and the relations between and among national economies. This course covers economic concepts, which deal with scarcity, production exchange, distribution and consumption, national income, employment theory, money, credit and banking. Students will be using a state approved college textbook and workbook published by the National Council on Economics. All students will be required to analyze and evaluate primary and secondary sources and also complete research assignments and essays. Students will take the AP exam at the end of the course.