

Social Science

AP Human Geography (HONORS DESIGNATION); 9th Grade

Human Geography is a yearlong course that focuses on the distribution, process and effects of Human populations on the planet. Topics include maps, population and health, migration, folk vs. popular culture, language, religion, ethnicity, political geography, economic development, industry, agriculture, and urban geography. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences to help them understand not only the “where” but also the “why” of human culture. Specific case studies are explored from areas all over the world to help students develop a better understanding of each concept. Students will also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. Meets UC and CSU requirements.

Honors World History; 10th Grade

This course introduces the following themes from the Neolithic Transition to the present: Human and Environment Interaction, Development and Interaction of Cultures, State building--including expansion and conflict, Changing Social Structures and Gender Roles, and Development and Interaction of Economic Systems. Areas of study include Asia, Eurasia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas; the content of this class will focus on *most* of these areas based on major units of study organized by the following topics: Emergence of Civilizations, The Classical World and Roots of Democracy, Post Classical Cultural Clashes, The Age of Exploration, Renaissance and Reform, Absolutism, Enlightenment and Revolution and, Industrialization and Nationalism, Imperialism, the causes and effects of World War I and World War II and the Cold War. This course highlights the development of historical thinking skills by examining these main topics through the lens of contextualization, comparisons, causation, and continuity and change over time while asking students also to practice analyzing historical evidence and to develop argumentation skills. Introducing these historical thinking skills sets the foundation for transitioning into future Advanced Placement courses. Meets UC and CSU requirements. Open to grade 10.

AP World History (HONORS DESIGNATION); 10th Grade

AP World History includes all of the Honors World History units, topics and historical thinking skill development, in more depth, but focuses more heavily on primary source reading, historical research, and written analysis and argumentation. Students enrolled in the AP course are expected to spend more time, both in class and independently, reading, analyzing text, and writing in order to properly prepare for the AP exam. Meets UC and CSU requirements. Open to grade 10.

AP U.S. History (HONORS DESIGNATION); 11th Grade

The Advanced Placement United States History course is a chronological, college-level survey class covering the time period from Columbus (1492) to present day America. The program is designed to

provide the student with the analytical skills and factual knowledge to deal critically with the problems and issues in American history. Students will learn to assess historical materials and determine their relevance to a given problem, their reliability, and their importance. Students are taught the historical thinking skills of causation, comparison, periodization, continuity and change, argumentation, contextualization and synthesis. Students will also be prepared to take the AP U.S. History exam offered by the College Board. Meets UC and CSU requirements. Open to 11th grade.

AP United States Government and Politics (semester-long course) (HONORS DESIGNATION); 12th Grade

This semester-long AP course in United States Government and Politics will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the U.S. The course includes the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics. Students who successfully complete this course will know important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics; understand typical patterns of political processes and behavior, and their consequences and be able to analyze and interpret data relevant to U.S. government and politics. Meets UC and CSU requirements. Open to 12th grade.

AP Microeconomics/ECON 1A (HONORS DESIGNATION); 12th Grade

This semester-long AP course in microeconomics is designed to assist students in developing critical thinking skills through the understanding, application, and analysis of fundamental economic concepts. Students will be expected to apply quantitative and mathematical skills to economics. Also, students will be expected to apply economic logic to a wide variety of real world and hypothetical situations. Meets UC and CSU requirements. Open to 12th grade.

AP Psychology – Elective Course (HONORS DESIGNATION)

The purpose of the AP course in Psychology is to introduce the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Included is a consideration of the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Through the course, students will be prepared to take the College Board Advanced Placement exam, and possibly receive college course credit. This course covers the following topics: History and Approaches, Research Methods, Biological Bases of Behavior, Sensation and Perception, States of Consciousness, Learning, Cognition, Motivation and Emotion, Developmental Psychology, Personality, Testing and Individual Differences, Abnormal Psychology, Treatment of Psychological Disorders, and Social Psychology. Meets UC and CSU requirements. Open to 11th-12th grade. 10th grade students must obtain instructor's approval.