

Social Studies

The Social Studies program at Springfield High School is designed to allow the student the option of becoming involved in specific aspects of the social sciences that parallel his/her specific interest. The program is designed to consider the development of the intellectual capabilities of each student which will in turn lead the student to become a more rational thinking being. Coupled with this is an emphasis on the application of the many higher order thinking processes including the various skills connected with decision making, problem solving, critical and creative thinking. The students will have the necessary knowledge, intellectual and social awareness, and communicative skills to function and develop in the 21st century.

Social Studies Grade 9

The Global Context – Hn 210

This course is designed to expose the students to distant cultures of the world as viewed through indigenous narratives. Our units of study include an examination of the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and South America's own histories and how these were impacted when encountering the colonialism of the Western world. In each unit, emphasis is placed on geography, culture, brief historical context, and current issues of the region. This course exposes students to a variety of cultures, and the patterns of civilizations as they evolve. A major focus will be placed on government, geography, society, customs, religion, global current events and economics. The aim is to give students a broad understanding of the world's modern civilizations to help them participate in today's global society.

Within the Honors course students will be expected to challenge themselves to think deeply about the connections between the historical texts they encounter and global current events.

Students should expect class discussions, collaborative work, nightly assignments, simulations and direct instruction. Integrative technology is an important component to this course. Student's geographic skills will be honed with in-depth map work. Special attention will be given to the development of higher-level writing skills.

The Global Context – CP 211

This course is designed to expose the students to distant cultures of the world as viewed through indigenous narratives. Our units of study include an examination of the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and South America's own histories and how these were impacted when encountering the colonialism of the Western world. In each unit, emphasis is placed on geography, culture, brief historical context, and current issues of the region. This course exposes students to a variety of cultures, and the patterns of civilizations as they evolve. A major focus will be placed on government, geography, society, customs, religion, global current events and economics. The aim is to give students a broad understanding of the world's modern civilizations to help them participate in today's global society.

Students should expect a wide variety of classroom activities, including but not limited to: simulations, direct instruction, group work, computer projects, and independent assignments. Students will learn, review, and then implement basic geographic skills with unit specific map labeling. Current events are an important part of this class, and students will be expected to be aware of important global events.

Social Studies Grade 10

United States History – Hn 220

This course surveys American History from the Jacksonian to the present, highlighting some of the important political and cultural contributions by Pennsylvanians along the way. Important events, themes, and people are studied with an emphasis on their relationship to one another and their meaning to the present. The course examines the beneficiaries of the American Experience as well as those who were left out. It traces the

extraordinary social, technological, economic and foreign policy transformations that have made us what we are as people. Students are challenged to analyze events while using primary and secondary sources that sometimes lead to various interpretations of the evidence. Above all, students are required to think about the meaning of this nation's history in their lives. Reading, writing, discussing, and active involvement are the essential strategies used in this course. The internet also plays a vital role in accessing primary sources and varied interpretations.

The Honors course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. Students should learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship.

United States History – CP 221

This course surveys American History from the Jacksonian period to the present, highlighting some of the important political and cultural contributions by Pennsylvanians along the way. Important events, themes, and people are studied with an emphasis on their relationship to one another and their meaning to the present. The course examines the beneficiaries of the American Experience as well as those who were left out. It traces the extraordinary social, technological, economic and foreign policy transformations that have made us what we are as people. Students are challenged to analyze events while using primary and secondary sources that sometimes lead to various interpretations of the evidence. Above all, students are required to think about the meaning of this nation's history in their lives. Reading, writing, discussing, and role-playing are the essential strategies used in this course. The Internet also plays a vital role in accessing primary sources and varied interpretations.

United States History – Advanced Placement AP 225

The Advanced Placement program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history from early settlement to the present. This course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Student should learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. The Internet also plays a vital role in accessing primary sources and varied interpretations for research projects. This course follows the AP curriculum.

Social Studies Grade 11

United States Civics and Government – Hn 240

United States Civics and Government is designed to assist students in developing an understanding of the American political system and an appreciation for the important role that citizens play in our democratic republic. Units of study include the purpose and function of government, historical foundations and significant documents of American government, general processes of government, the interpretation and application of law, and the role of individual citizens and that of groups and organizations in our political system. Students will also compare and contrast the role of the federal government with that of the state of Pennsylvania. Internet research is used for simulations and problem-solving projects as well as to provide a consistent awareness of current events in Washington and Harrisburg.

Within the Honors classes students will be expected to challenge themselves to think deeply about the connections between the historical texts they encounter and current events that are unfolding within the United States today. Students will also be expected to take engage in various independent and collaborative research and writing initiatives.

United States Civics and Government – CP 241

United States Civics and Government is designed to assist students in developing an understanding of the American political system and an appreciation for the important role that citizens play in our democratic republic. Units of study include the purpose and function of government and the historical foundations and significant documents of American government, the general processes of government, the interpretation and application of law, and the role of individual citizens and that of groups and organizations in our political system. Students will also compare and contrast the role of the federal government with that of the state of Pennsylvania. Internet research is used for simulations and problem-solving projects as well as to provide a consistent awareness of current events in Washington and Harrisburg.

United States Government & Politics – Advanced Placement AP 245

The Advanced Placement American Government and Politics course is an intensive program of instruction and personal study focusing on the national level of government and politics. Students will critically examine five common areas and subjects normally covered in an introductory college political science course: the Constitution; underpinnings of Government, political parties and interest groups; institutions and policy processes of the national government; civil rights and civil liberties. The course uses web resources extensively in addition to textbook and primary source materials. Students with consistently high grades in social studies and teacher recommendations will be considered for the course. This course follows the AP curriculum.

Social Studies – Additional Course Offerings

Civil and Criminal Law - 254

The Civil and Criminal Law course offers the student an exciting hands-on experience in practical law using the Street Law Text and other Street Law materials. The major emphasis will be on practical application through student simulations, mock trials, moot court hearings, and presentations by legal experts. Students will be using the Internet to research past cases, precedents, and legal updates.

Psychology - 225

The primary goal of this semester course is to expose students to some of the major topics and themes of the field of psychology. The course covers the history of psychology and the four major perspectives of psychology: biological, behavioral, psychodynamic, and humanistic, as well as a study of the brain, self-concept and advertising psychology, and social psychology and abnormal psychology. Students will participate in experiments and demonstrations to reinforce course concepts and as a result, gain a better understanding of the forces behind human behavior, their own and others.

Constitutional Civil Rights - 258

Anyone who has ever watched a cop drama knows that criminal suspects have certain rights, including the right to remain silent and the right to an attorney. People speak their minds freely on television and on the internet knowing that they have a right to free speech. These rights, and many more, are guaranteed and protected under the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. In this course, we will explore these rights in real life cases and analyze the Supreme Court's role as protector and defender of the Constitution. Activities will include debates and simulations, as well as participation in an intensive moot Supreme Court hearing.

Sociology - 261

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. In this one semester course, students will focus on human behavior in families, religious groups, local communities, and in the broader society. Students will examine such topics as cultural conformity, adolescent socialization, racial and ethnic relations, and gender. Class discussions based on assigned readings will be the primary activity during

this course, with several short reaction papers and examinations assigned throughout the semester. Students are also required to complete a culminating research project. Students must realize that a regimen of regular study and above average ability in reading and synthesizing skills are required to achieve success at this level.

Social Studies – Advanced Placement Course Offerings

European History – Advanced Placement AP 235

This course is designed as a college level course and students are expected to take the AP test in May. The scope of the course is from the Renaissance to present day and utilizes a college level text plus a variety of primary sources. Students will be expected to complete several research projects plus participate in historic simulations and class discussions. Analysis of material to determine patterns in history is a necessity in the course, as is understanding how to write a complete persuasive historic essay. Students must become comfortable in using the internet for research and contacting other AP sites. This course follows the AP curriculum.

Psychology – Advanced Placement AP 256

1.0 Credit Humanities, Technologies, & Arts Grades: 11, 12 HAC access
Prerequisite: Grade of 90 % or higher in honors level social studies courses
 Grade of 84% or higher in AP level social studies courses

This is a rigorous college level course. By design, the course is patterned after a typical undergraduate introductory psychology course. A college-level text is used in the course. The course covers 14 designated topics: 1) History and Approaches; 2) Research Methods; 3) Biological Bases of Behavior; 4) Sensation and Perception; 5) States of Consciousness; 6) Learning; 7) Cognition; 8) Motivation and Emotion; 9) Developmental Psychology; 10) Personality; 11) Testing and Individual Differences; 12) Abnormal Psychology; 13) Treatment of Psychological Disorders; 14) Social Psychology.

Human Geography – Advanced Placement AP 265

1.0 Credit Humanities, Technologies, & Arts Grades: 09, 10, 11, 12 HAC Access
The AP Human Geography course introduces 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 application.

Macroeconomics – Advanced Placement AP 982

This college-level course complies with College Board guidelines and is the equivalent of an introductory-level university course in Macroeconomics. AP Macroeconomics provides students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Students learn about scarcity, national income, price determination, economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, inflation, unemployment, economic growth, the business cycle, price indices, Classical Economics and Say's Law, the fundamentals of aggregate supply, the fundamentals of aggregate demand, expenditure and tax multipliers, economic growth and productivity, Keynesian Economics, fiscal policy, and international economics.