**World History Honors, Grade 9**

This freshmen course explores the key events and global historical developments that have shaped the world we live in today. Through inquiry-based learning, students will uncover patterns of behavior, identify historical trends and themes, explore historical movements and concepts, and test theories. Students will refine their ability to read for comprehension and critical analysis; summarize, categorize, compare, and evaluate information; write clearly and convincingly; express facts and opinions orally; and use technology appropriately to present information. Students in this honors-levels course are required to complete an additional unit of study over the summer and must also complete two independent reading assignments over the course of the school year which may be presented to the class.

**World History, Grade 9**

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**American Studies I, Grade 10 Honors**

**1 credit (full year)**

This is an in-depth study of American history and culture through literature and traditional historical sources. This class is a collaboration of the Social Studies and English Departments, leading to greater reinforcement and understanding of course material. Students delve into thematic study beginning with the colonization of America through the Constitution and Reconstruction. The themes will transcend both subject areas and students will use overlapping content in both classes. The themes will transcend both subject areas and students will use overlapping content in both classes. Enhancement of collaborative work, vocabulary, various writing genres, Pre AP strategies, and independent reading and writing will be the cornerstones of this Honors level course. This course will also include additional novels and readings, summer reading and writing, and critical analysis components all in attempt to ready students for AP work ahead. This course is a precursor to the AP US History course, enhancing students’ exposure to the style of questions and rhetoric used in those courses as well as the various types of writing and inquiry-based strategies that are paramount to AP study. Enhancement of collaborative work, vocabulary, and various writing genres will be the cornerstones of this Honors course. This course sets the stage for American Studies 2 and/or AP US History.

**American Studies I, Grade 10 College**

**1 credit (full year)**

This is an in-depth study of American history and culture through literature and traditional historical sources. This class is a collaboration of the Social Studies and English Departments, leading to greater reinforcement and understanding of course material. Students delve into thematic study beginning with the colonization of America through the Constitution and Reconstruction. The themes will transcend both subject areas and students will use overlapping content in both classes. The themes will transcend both subject areas and students will use overlapping content in both classes. Enhancement of collaborative work, vocabulary, various writing genres, and independent reading and writing will be the cornerstones of this collegiate level course. Enhancement of collaborative work, vocabulary, and various writing genres will be the cornerstones of this Honors course. This course sets the stage for American Studies 2.

**American Studies II, Grade 11 Honors**

**1 credit (full year)**

Students will continue to study the relationship between American History and literature through a thematic yet chronological approach. The course will explore twentieth century American culture, ideals, literature, music and accomplishments. Students will utilize twenty-first century skills to collaborate on and present various projects meant to bridge the gap between the past and present in conjunction with their English courses. This course allows teaching across the curriculum as it is highly interdisciplinary with the accompanying American Studies English course which enables students to see the relationship between historical events and the literature shaped by them, as started in the American Studies I course the previous year. This course will require additional units of study as well as a summer work component and more in-depth analysis of the cultural components within later American society. Students will be encouraged to not only read independently but to collaborate with peers on large-scale projects. Enhancement of collaborative work, historical knowledge, reading/writing/research skill development, and inquiry-based analysis will be the cornerstones of this collegiate course.

**American Studies II, Grade 11 College**

**1 credit (full year)**

Students will continue to study the relationship between American History and literature through a thematic yet chronological approach. The course will explore twentieth century American culture, ideals, literature, music and accomplishments. Students will utilize twenty-first century skills to collaborate on and present various projects meant to bridge the gap between the past and present in conjunction with their English courses. This course allows teaching across the curriculum as it is highly interdisciplinary with the accompanying American Studies English course which enables students to see the relationship between historical events and the literature shaped by them, as started in the American Studies I course the previous year. Enhancement of collaborative work, historical knowledge, reading/writing/research skill development, and inquiry-based analysis will be the cornerstones of this collegiate course.

***Social Studies Dept. Electives:***

**Civics, Grades 11–12**

**.5 credit (one semester)**

This course fulfills the Civics requirement mandated by the state of Connecticut. Students learn about the rights and responsibilities of United States citizenship. They

explore the structure of the federal government as outlined in the U.S. Constitution and

the organization of state and local governments. They will learn the basic different types of government along with their strengths and weaknesses and the role of The United States as a world power. All students must pass this course to graduate as mandated by the state of CT.

**Contemporary Issues, Grades 11–12**

**.5 credit (one semester)**

This course focuses on selected current happenings of local, national, and worldwide interest, as well as the background of these issues. This course will enable students to comprehend the events going on around them and will help them understand the impact of various events on their lives now and in the future.

**Crossing the Cultural Divide**

**.5 Credit (one semester)**

This course explores the complex nature of understanding and communicating across cultural boundaries and differences.  In this class students will learn to honor and share their own culture while developing a capacity to be inclusive of many other cultures.  Through the examination of different cultures and their beliefs, students will tackle the sensitive issues that are present in our fast changing and very globalized society.  This class will not shy away from the “thorny” issues and students will be expected to participate and debate these issues, progressing from an ethnocentric toward and ethno-relative state of understanding and acceptance of cultural differences.

**General Psychology**

**.5 Credit (one semester)**

This course offers students an introduction to the field of psychology, the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students will learn about the various approaches to psychology, the life span, and the workings of mind and body. Students will be able to use this information to gain insight into their lives and the lives of the people around them. This course is a prerequisite for Advanced Placement Psychology.

**Sociology Grades 11–12**

**.5 credit (one semester)**

This class offers an introduction to the field of sociology. Students learn about the study of society and the interactions between groups and institutions. They learn the

fundamentals of sociology as a social science and central sociological concepts.

Students explore the history of the field and research methods used by sociologists as they focus on themes of culture, social inequalities, and deviance and conformity. Are we a society of equality or of class/gender/racial/economic segregation? What does it mean to be a "deviant"? How much does our culture define us as a society? These are some of the thought-provoking, reflective looks at our society through the lens of a sociologist.

**Women’s Studies**

**.5 credit (one semester)**

Students taking this class will explore how women’s roles in society have evolved and expanded as they consult a variety of primary and secondary sources that deviate from

traditional male-centered studies of history. The class begins in the present day,

exploring the ideals of feminism and how they have impacted law, society, and policy. Students then journey through women’s history by touching on eight significant turning points that have shaped the face of women in society. There is a focus on political, social, economic, educational, and gender issues while engaging in essential questions such as, “What are the differences between men and women and how do these differences lead to different roles in society?”

**AP European History Grades 11–12**

**1 credit (full year)**

Juniors and seniors explore the history of Modern Europe from approximately 1450 to the present day. The course is designed to prepare students for the AP European History Exam. In addition to providing a basic narrative of political and cultural events of modern Europe, it focuses on the development of skills used to analyze historical events. Students are responsible for the cost of the textbook and exam. Students are required to take the AP test in order to receive credit for this course and may receive college credit with a passing score.

**AP Government & Politics Grades 11–12**

**1 credit (full year)**

The AP Government & Politics course provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute the U.S. political reality. Students are responsible for the cost of the textbook and exam. Students are required to take the AP test in order to receive credit for this course and may receive college credit with a passing score. AP US History or American Studies Honors is a highly recommended prerequisite given the subject matter.

**AP Psychology Grade 12**

**1 credit (full year)**

This course is designed to offer an overview of the field of psychology. Students are introduced to major theories and trends in the study of psychology. Areas such as

Life-span development, emotions, social behavior, personality, learning and memory, and

the physiology of the brain will be explored. Students are responsible for the cost of the textbook and exam. Students are required to take the AP test in order to receive credit for this course and may receive college credit with a passing score. A semester of General Psychology is a pre-requisite for this course.

**AP U.S. History 10–12**

**1 credit (full year)**

This introductory college course is intended to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in first-year college American History courses. Students will use a textbook and supplementary readings of documents, essays, or books with special themes covering U.S. history topics in order to prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam. Students are responsible for the cost of the textbook and exam. This course fulfills the Civic requirement. Students are required to take the AP test in order to receive credit for this course and may receive college credit with a passing score.