

## **SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT COURSE OFFERINGS**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT – Three credits to include:

- One credit, World History (grade 10)
- One credit, United States History (grade 11)
- One-half credit, Government (grade 12)
- One-half credit, Economics (grade 12)

Please note that only AP courses carry weighted grades. Students who choose AP courses should know that these courses require a high degree of motivation, intellectual output, and most importantly, a strong interest in the subject matter in order to assure success.

For information on the Arizona State Standards go to the following website:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/contentstandards.asp>

### **WORLD HISTORY #200**

One Year ( grade 10 ) (meets graduation requirement) , prerequisite: None

This course will cover the history of the world from early peoples to the modern age. This course develops the analytical skills necessary to understand and deal critically with problems in history and geography. An emphasis is placed upon reading analytically and writing extensively.

### **AP WORLD HISTORY #206**

One Year ( grade 10 ) , meets graduation requirement , prerequisite: a high motivation and interest in the subject area .

The purpose of the rigorous AP World History course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts, in interaction with different types of human societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills.

The course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. Expectations are that the students will work both independently and cooperatively on research and presentation of selected topics. Students will also be expected to write analytically and to write research papers. This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement examination and possible awarding of college credit. Students are expected to take the AP World History exam in the spring. For more information about Advanced Placement courses, go to the College Board website: <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY #208**

One Year (grade 11) , meets graduation requirement, prerequisite: None

Students will discover the transformation of the nation from the pre-Columbian era through modern day. Students will examine the social, historical, economic, and political factors that contributed to the development of the United States and what factors are currently

influencing the nation.

#### AP UNITED STATES HISTORY #214

One Year ( grades 11, 12 ) , meets graduation requirement , prerequisite: a high motivation and interest in the subject area .

To enhance the student's understanding of American diversity and identity and how change and reform transformed the United States. Students will learn to assess historical materials and weigh the evidence to provide well-informed interpretations.

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination and possible awarding of college credits. Students are expected to take the AP United States History exam in the spring. For more information about Advanced Placement courses, go to the College Board website: <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

#### AP EUROPEAN HISTORY #254

One Year ( grades 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: a high motivation and interest in the subject area .

The study of European history since 1450 introduces students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. This course presents an understanding of the development of contemporary institutions, the role of continuity and change in present-day society and politics, and the evolution of current forms of artistic expression and intellectual discourse.

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination and possible awarding of college credit. Students are expected to take the AP European History exam in the spring. For more information about Advanced Placement courses, go to the College Board website: <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

#### AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY #202

One Year ( grades 10, 11, 12 ) , meets graduation requirement , prerequisite: a high motivation and interest in the subject area .

The purpose of this rigorous course is to introduce students to the systemic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination and possible awarding of college credit. Students are expected to take the AP Human Geography exam in the spring. For more information about Advanced Placement courses, go to the College Board website: <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

## GOVERNMENT #216

One Semester ( grades 11,12 ) , meets graduation requirement , prerequisite: none.

Students will explore what drives policy and change in government and how it affects their lives. This course emphasizes the United States and Arizona Constitutions. By the end of the course students will demonstrate rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

## YOU AND THE LAW #228

One Semester ( grades 9, 10, 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none.

A study of the basic elements of civil and criminal law as provided through true-to-life encounters with basic legal processes. This course involves students in simulations and role playing dramatizing landmark cases. This course prepares students to compete in Mock Trials. May be repeated for credit.

## AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #210

One Year ( grades 11 , 12 ) , meets graduation requirement , prerequisite: a high motivation and interest in the subject area

This course will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States and a variety of other countries. It includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and analysis of specific examples. Students will also become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. The course aims to illustrate the rich diversity of political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes. This course also emphasizes the United States Constitution. By the end of the course students will demonstrate rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Students are expected to take the AP Government and Politics exam in the spring. For more information about Advanced Placement courses, go to the College Board website:  
<http://www.collegeboard.com>.

## ECONOMICS #220

One Semester ( grades 11 , 12 ) , meets graduation requirement , prerequisite: none.

How does society deal with unlimited wants and limited resources? In this course, students are introduced to the basic skills and knowledge they will need to survive in the competitive global economy. Students will learn to apply basic economic principles to the decisions they will make as consumers, members of the global workforce, citizens and voters. Students will develop a foundation of understanding of the complex relationships among economic, political and cultural systems. In addition, students will be introduced to the methods used to analyze current economic issues and public policies.

## PSYCHOLOGY #236

One Semester ( grades 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none.

An introductory psychology course, the content examines the various schools of psychology, the nature of psychology, and personality development. May be repeated for credit.

## AP MACRO ECONOMICS #222

One Year ( grades 11, 12 ) , meets graduation requirement , prerequisite: a high motivation and interest in the subject area.

The study of economics requires students to understand that, in any economy, the existence of limited resources along with unlimited wants results in the need to make choices. This course introduces the fundamental concepts of scarcity, opportunity costs and trade-offs. It explores the functions of the economic system and the way the tools of supply and demand are used to analyze the workings of a free market economy.

The course also covers the concept of the business cycle and an overview of economic fluctuations emphasizing the dynamics of unemployment, inflation, and economic growth. The importance of property rights, the role of incentives in the functioning of free markets, and the principle of marginal analysis are highlighted.

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination and possible awarding of college credit. Students are expected to take the AP Economics exam in the spring.

## THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE #232

One Semester ( grades 10, 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none.

This course explores in detail the causes and effects of the longest armed conflict in American history. Special emphasis is placed upon the history and culture of Vietnam, military strategy and tactics, American politics and culture of the 1960's, as well as the results, lessons, and legacies of this war.

## SOCIOLOGY #240

One Semester ( grades 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none .

Introducing students to the basic fundamentals of sociology, the course focuses on current social changes, current sociological trends, and various theories currently facing our nation.

## AP PSYCHOLOGY #234

One Year ( grades 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: a high motivation and interest in the subject area.

Designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam and the possible awarding of college credit. The course covers thirteen basic areas of study including methods, approaches and history; the biological basis of behavior; sensation and perception; states of consciousness; learning; cognitive psychology; motivation and emotion; developmental psychology; personality; testing and

individual differences; abnormal psychology; treatment of psychological disorders; and social psychology. Students are expected to take the AP Psychology exam in the spring. For more information about Advanced Placement courses, go to the College Board website: <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

#### HISTORY OF MEXICO #250

One Semester ( grades 9, 10, 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none.

This course will help students gain a better understanding of the history and culture of Mexico. The course will begin with the early civilizations and progress through the colonial years followed by revolution and independence. Special contemporary topics unique to Yuma County, the State of Arizona, and the southwestern U.S. border region will be incorporated.

#### MYSTERIES OF HISTORY #260

One Semester ( grades 9, 10, 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none.

This course studies the political, religious, scientific, archeological, sociological, and historical issues behind some of the most famous cases in world history. Famous crimes, disappearances, trials, unexplained phenomenon, and historical reputations will be studied. History is a constantly evolving science and the students in this class will be encouraged to study and research the latest theories and evidence promoting the answers to controversial topics.

#### GEOGRAPHY #252

One Semester ( grades 9, 10, 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none.

This course focuses on geographic applications, including how to read maps, charts, and usage of correct geographic terminology using modern maps. Emphasis will be placed on methods and tools that geographer's use in practice to study human social organization.

#### AMERICAN POP CULTURE #244

One Semester ( grades 9, 10, 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none.

This course is designed to expand students' culture literacy. The students will examine how society affects culture and how culture affects society. An emphasis is placed on American art, literature, music, and television. Students will also analyze fads, trends, and icons of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### HISTORY IN FILM #246

One Semester ( grades 9, 10, 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none.

Did the Romans wear wristwatches? Being recorded on film does not make it accurate. Critical viewing and analysis of historical films and documentaries will give students a background in critically reading and assessing all forms of modern media.

## WOMEN IN U.S. HISTORY #248

One Semester ( grades 9, 10, 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none.

This class will help students understand the role women played in leadership throughout the development of the United States. Special topics such as women in early America, the suffrage movement, women during wartime, the modern women's movement, and the development of the confidence and abilities of women to become political leaders will be covered. A comparison of U.S. women to women of other world cultures will also be addressed.

## CURRENT EVENTS #270

One Semester ( grades 9, 10, 11, 12 ) , elective credit , prerequisite: none.

This is a class that encourages the student to be aware of events in his/her local area as well as the world at large. Students will develop writing and summarization skills through the activities and strategies utilized in class. Students will be expected to read daily from media sources including newspapers and the internet.