

Social Studies

Social Studies is the study of individual and group relationships - man's past, present, and future. Department emphasis is placed on the foundations of Western Civilization with special significance placed on the Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian Heritage. The Bethlehem Catholic High School Social Studies Department, aware of the various religious and ethnic groups that are prevalent throughout the world, is dedicated to the task of providing students with an understanding of our planet's diversification. The Social Studies Department attempts to cultivate an atmosphere in which students can develop the skill needed to make morally responsible decisions with sufficient opportunities for them to express their own individuality and creativity, while at the same time, respecting the same qualities in others.

AMERICAN HISTORY

Credit 1.00

Level 2

This course is a survey course that explores the political, social and economic trends from Reconstruction through the Seventies. With a chronological flow, a thematic approach to events will be employed in this course. The course includes a detailed study of the Reconstruction Period, Westward Expansion, Progressive Era, Depression, WWI, WWII and the Cold War. The course will also focus on the economic and demographic transition of the United States from a rural-agricultural to an urban-industrial nation.

HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY

Credit 1.00

Level 3

See above. Greater emphasis is placed on reading and writing skills.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Credit 1.00

Level 2

This is a survey course on basic American political institutions. Units of study include the Constitution, the Presidency, the Courts, pressure groups, political parties and public opinion surveying.

HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Credit 1.00

Level 3

This is an in-depth study of American political institutions. It will prepare students to take Honors U.S. Foreign Policy and AP U.S. History. In addition to understanding basic American political institutions, students will be asked to demonstrate critical thinking skills and policy analysis. Students will be expected to convey written expression of ideas and be able to defend positions through verbal expression.

Prerequisite: Averages of 85 or higher in Honors Social Studies AND English or 90 in College Prep Social Studies AND English. Teacher of the course approval.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Credit 1.00

Level 2

This course is dedicated to a study of the world around us. The class starts with an introduction to geography, in which students will learn the five themes of geography, the features that define the earth, the climate patterns of the earth, how to study peoples and cultures of the earth and how to use various geographic tools. From there students will use the skills they have learned to apply to the ten areas of the world we will be studying. In

addition to using these skills to apply to ten areas, the students will look at the physical features of those areas (land, climate, and types of vegetation). Each area will also be addressed in terms of its culture, which includes studies of population patterns, history and government, and cultures/lifestyles. The final area to be addressed to each of the ten areas is current news about the area. This includes current living conditions, current news events, and how people there are interacting with their environment.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of American History, American Government and World History.

WORLD HISTORY

Credit 1.00

Level 2

Analysis will be made of the historical development and contemporary situation of Western Civilization. A study of the foundation of Western Civilization with a special emphasis on the Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian heritages will be pursued. The Renaissance, Reformation and the rise of the Nation-State will provide a transition to the modern era. In the modern era, Revolution, Nationalism, Imperialism, World Wars I and II and the Post-War World will be analyzed.

HONORS WORLD HISTORY

Credit 1.00

Level 3

Analysis will be made of the historical development and contemporary situation of Western Civilization. A study of the foundation of Western Civilization with a special emphasis on the Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian heritages will be pursued. The Renaissance, Reformation and the rise of the Nation-State will provide a transition to the modern era. In the modern era, Revolution, Nationalism, Imperialism, World Wars I and II and the Post-War World will be analyzed. Students will take an in depth look at civilizations and make a side by side comparison through projects and written papers. Students will be required to participate in National History Day. A summer reading list will be provided.

Prerequisite: Averages of 85 or higher in Honors Social Studies AND English or 90 in College Prep Social Studies AND English. Teacher of the course approval.

AP US HISTORY

Credit 1.00

Level 4

The AP U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. All students are required to complete summer reading assignments and take the AP U.S. History exam in May.

Prerequisite: Those students in the top 40% (Final Average) Honors American Government class will be considered for this course along with Department Chairperson approval.

AP US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Credit 1.00

Level 4

The AP U.S. Government and Politics course involves the study of democratic ideas, balance of powers, and tension between the practical and ideal in national policy-making. Students analyze and discuss the importance of various constitutional principles, rights and procedures, institutions, and political processes that impact us as citizens. The course will be an intensive study of six major areas encompassing the underpinnings of the constitution, federalism, the three branches of government, political beliefs and behaviors,

public policy, civil liberties and rights, political parties, interest groups and the media. The United States Government and Politics course will give students an analytical and evaluative perspective on our system of government. The course includes both the study of general concepts to interpret how our unique system of government is structured and operates as well as specific examples since our founding.

Prerequisite: *Students are required to have completed American History, American Government, and World History. There is a summer assignment and all students must take the AP exam in May. Teacher of course approval.*

MODERN AMERICAN

Credit 1.00

Level 2

HISTORY (1945- present)

This is an elective course offered to seniors. The course is intended to give the student a general overview of United States history during the time period from 1945-present day with an emphasis on major domestic trends and foreign affairs of the period. Current event topics are also covered.

Instructional strategies requiring classroom participation and discussion are emphasized. Grading is based on class participation and a variety of student generated written and technology oriented assignments. Several weekly or biweekly position papers and/or technology presentations are required.

Prerequisite: *Successful completion of American History and American Government*

SOCIOLOGY

Credit 0.50

Level 2

This one-semester course aims at giving the student, together with a brief intellectual history of sociology, a descriptive analysis of the structure and function of human society, or group behavior, by concentrating on basic sociological concepts such as: culture, socialization, organization, stratification and social institutions.

Prerequisite: *Teacher of course approval. Second Semester; Opposite "Psychology"*

PSYCHOLOGY

Credit 0.50

Level 2

This one-semester course aims at providing the student with a basic understanding of all areas in the world of psychology, or individual behavior, from the biological bases of behavior to various schools of psychology and fundamental psychological concepts such as: personality, motivation, perception, conditioning, learning, emotion, and abnormal behavior.

Prerequisite: *Teacher of course approval. First Semester; Opposite "Sociology"*

MODERN AMERICAN POP CULTURE (1900 – Present)

Credit 1.00

Level 2

This one-semester course will focus on a variety of themes and ideas. The main goal of this course is to study and understand how the culture of America has changed in regards to society, music, movies, television and sports. By studying these topics, students will leave the class with a better understanding of how and why our culture has changed and grown into what we have today through mass media. The grade for this course will be based on projects, papers, discussion and essays.

