

**SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**  
Course Descriptions

**World Geography**

*Gr. 9*

The students will study both the physical and political characteristics of each of the seven continents with emphasis on acquiring map skills and comparing cultural traits. The students will understand the causes and effects of forces in the global environment and society from a Christian perspective.

**World History**

*Gr. 10*

The course is a study of historical development of human cultures. By looking at political, social and economic aspects, students will examine how people of the past lived. This study will help them determine what effects past culture's actions have in today's world and what we can learn from them for our future. The course will help students become active Christian citizens in American society and the global community.

**U.S. History**

*Required Gr. 11 Required for Graduation*

United States History is a survey from the colonization of the North American colonies to the present. Attention will be given to regional as well as national study. The role of various political and cultural movements as well as the role of ethnic groups and women in American history will also be examined. A basic text is used to give a general background and chronological structure to the course. Students will be required to write research based essays ,as well as use a variety of sources, including maps, graphs, charts, editorial cartoons, and outside readings to develop a fuller understanding of the various time periods covered and their impact on subsequent times and events.

**General Psychology**

*Prerequisite: Gr. 11 - 12 status*

This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings. Students will learn some of the major discoveries made by psychologists over the past century, the different approaches adopted by psychologists including the biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic, and socio-cultural perspectives. Students will also learn how psychologists think in their approach to addressing problems and issues. Numerous short articles and readings will be assigned along with frequent short essay assignments and a variety of topic related, hands-on projects. Major projects include a book review, topic related literature reviews which will culminate in designing, conducting, evaluating and presenting a psychological study.

**International Affairs**

*Prerequisite: Must have taken US History and either World Geography OR World History*

This course will briefly review the recent history of the modern world. The main emphasis of the course will be the investigation of current world leaders, countries, and important issues facing them as they interact in the international community. The goal of this course is to make students aware of the world around them and cause them to look analytically at issues in the news. A general introduction to economic concepts with emphasis on economic institutions and processes in a market economy. Includes basic discussion of macroeconomic topics including economic decision making in the context of scarce resources, supply and demand, price theory, measuring economic performance, governmental monetary and fiscal policy, and international trade.

**Economics**

*Prerequisite: US History*

The first half of the course is the traditional high school introduction to economics: basic concepts, principles and theories. The second half of the course will present current issues in American culture and politics which impact or are impacted by economics.

**AP Comparative Govt and Politics**

*SLU POLS150 \*DC\*(3 cr)*

*Prerequisite: US History AND World History*

This course will encompass the study both of specific countries and of general concepts used to interpret the political relationships found in virtually all national polities. Seven countries form the core of the examination. These are The United States, Great Britain, Russia, China, Nigeria, Iran, and Mexico. This course is taught under College Board Advanced Placement Curriculum, and carries a 5 point grade scale. Students are required to take the AP Comparative Government exam at their own expense and may opt (also at student expense) to take the AP U.S. Government Exam. Students should expect a college-level assignment load. This class can count for the required Government class.

**American Govt and Citizenship**

*Gr. 12 Required for Graduation*

The students will study the history and structure of American government with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution and Missouri Constitution. Students will study the three branches of representative government and the importance of civic participation at all levels. Students must pass the class to graduate from high school (Missouri Legislature, 1992).