



## SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

To qualify for graduation, a student must earn 4 units of credit in Social Studies including Global History and Geography 9, Global History and Geography 10, United States History and Government 11, Economics 12 (1/2 credit), and Participation in Government 12 (1/2 credit). Also, a student must pass the Regents Examination in Global History and Geography (9-10) and the Regents Examination in United States History and Government (11). Remediation is offered to students who fail to pass these examinations.

Students in the Social Studies Department have the opportunity to take courses at the following levels: Honors, Regents, IB and UHS. All courses prepare all students to meet the new Regents standards. However, the reading materials and the pace of instruction vary across the levels and offer enrichment activities or remedial assistance, depending on the skills of the student.

### GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

In grades 9 and 10 Social Studies, students will examine Global History and Geography. This two year sequence is arranged chronologically beginning with the Paleolithic Era and continuing through the present.

and the role of belief systems. While the course emphasizes the importance of historical and spatial thinking, all of the social studies practices and standards are included in the study of global history and geography. As part of the course, students will further develop their research skills and participate in activities that promote critical thinking, document analysis, and use of substantive evidence in developing a thesis.

The course emphasizes the key themes of interactions over time, shifts in political power, and the role of belief systems. While the course emphasizes the importance of historical and spatial thinking, all of the social studies practices and standards are included in the study of global history and geography.

analysis, and use of substantive evidence in developing a thesis.

### GRADE 9 PRE-IB: GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

(1 CREDIT)

This course requires students to study topics in depth through intensive reading, writing, and analysis of primary and secondary source material. Grade 9 begins with the Paleolithic Era and the development of the first civilizations, continues with an examination of classical societies, and traces the expansion of trade networks and their global impact. The course emphasizes the key themes of interactions over time, shifts in political power,

### GRADE 9: GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY I

(1 CREDIT)

Grade 9 begins with the Paleolithic Era and the development of the first civilizations, continues with an examination of classical societies, and traces the expansion of trade networks and their global impact. The course requires students to read primary and secondary source material, create argument responses in writing and apply what they learn in different situations.

### SOCIAL STUDIES 10 PRE-IB: GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

(1 CREDIT)

This course requires students to study topics in more depth through intensive reading and writing. Course content includes the Age of Revolutions through Modern Times, including a Half-Century of Crisis and Achievement (1900-1945, The Twentieth Century Since 1945 and Global Connections and Interactions. As part of the course, students will further develop their research skills and participate in activities that promote critical thinking, document

### SOCIAL STUDIES 10: GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

(1 CREDIT)

Required for graduation, this course is a continuation of the study of Global History 9. Course content includes: The Renaissance, the Age of Revolutions (1750-1914), A Half-Century of Crisis and Achievement (1900-1945), The Twentieth Century Since 1945 and Global Connections and Interactions. Like Global History 9, this course prepares students to meet the learning standards in Social Studies (In addition to the World History Standard, Geography, Economics and Government are addressed) and offers instruction in writing skills to ready them for the more rigorous, on-demand testing requirements of the Global History Regents Examination.



**US HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT HONORS 11**

**(1 CREDIT)**

**Prerequisite:** High achievement in Global Studies 9 & 10 and a recommendation from social studies faculty.

This course is designed for a student who is interested and excited to learn American history. Students will be challenged to investigate and report on the major themes of American history, from the French and Indian War to modern history. Students will be developing their writing and technology skills through social studies themes. Students will be expected to research American historical periods both independently and collectively. Participants must take the US Regents in June.

**SOCIAL STUDIES 11: US HISTORY & GOVERNMENT**

**(1 CREDIT)**

**Prerequisite:** Global History and Geography 9 and 10.

This course is a study of the history of the United States with emphasis upon its government and development as an industrial nation. The problems of modern American society are also studied. Like Global History 9 and 10, this course prepares students to meet the new learning standards in Social Studies and offers instruction in new writing skills to ready them for the more rigorous, on-demand

testing requirements of the United States History Regents Examination.

**COMPARATIVE HISTORY**

**(1 CREDIT)**

**Prerequisite:** Global History and Geography 9 and 10.

This 1 credit 11th grade social studies course fulfills the New York State US History graduation requirement and is designed for students who have successfully completed Global History and Geography but have not yet passed the Global Studies Regents Exam. This course will be taught using a comparative approach to history. There will be a major focus on development of the skills necessary for successfully meeting the required passing standard on the Global History and Geography and the US History and Geography Regents exams. When studying the history and foundation of the US Constitution and framework of government, students will review the Enlightenment period and French and Latin American Revolutions. When studying the Industrial Revolution and Progressive Movement in the US, students will review the Industrial Revolution in England. When studying US Westward Expansion and Empire Building, students will review European Colonization of the Americas and Imperialism in Africa and Asia.

**ECONOMICS IB (SL)**

**3 UHS CREDITS, SCCC (ECO 221 - MACRO)**

**3 UHS CREDITS, SCCC (ECO 223 - MICRO)**

**FULFILLS THE ECONOMICS AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT (PIG) GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

**Prerequisite:** Average of 85 or better in the first three quarters of US History and Geography or an average of 75 or better in the first three quarters of IB History of the Americas, an attendance rate of 85% or better and must fit the IB Learner Profile with the motivation and desire to learn. Students who wish to appeal the prerequisite requirements may do so using the IB Program Appeal Process.

IB Economics is a study of Macro- and Microeconomic theories at an introductory college level, with special emphasis placed on the international issues of trade and economic development. This is an excellent course for students interested in studying economics, finance, business, political science or history in college.

Students must complete an internal assessment project that includes an economic analysis of four current research articles. The IB Economics exam is administered in May.

**SOCIAL STUDIES 12: ECONOMICS**

**(1/2 CREDIT)**

A Prerequisite is US History. This course is a one-semester course required for graduation. It gives students the opportunity to study basic economic concepts and understandings and to analyze current economic issues.

**PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT/ ECONOMICS HONORS**

**FULFILLS THE ECONOMICS AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT (PIG) GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

**Prerequisite:** High achievement in US History 11 and a faculty recommendation.

Participation in Government/ Economics Honors is a comprehensive study of the American Governmental system. It includes an intensive analysis of the Presidency, federal bureaucracy, national security, foreign affairs, congressional power and the federal court system. In addition, students will study basic economic principles within the sphere of the American economic system.



### SOCIAL STUDIES 12: PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

**(1/2 CREDIT)**

**Prerequisite is US History.**

This semester course is required for graduation. It gives the students the opportunity to study the role that citizens play in a democratic society. There is study of the interaction of citizens and government and the processes by which public issues reach consensus.

### INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

**(1/2 CREDIT)**

This course offers an introduction to the basic concepts and perspectives of sociology, with special emphasis on the study of American society. Topics include: sociology as a science, social organization, culture, socialization, groups and associations, social stratification, collective behavior, and population.

### UNIVERSITY SOCIOLOGY

**3 UHS CREDITS,  
UALBANY (ASOL 115)  
(1 CREDIT)**

**Prerequisite: High achievement in the US History Honors Course and/or US R and passing of the US History Regents.**

This is a challenging elective that offers advanced 12th grade students the opportunity to earn college credit from the State University at Albany. The course involves an intensive study of the basic concepts and

perspectives of Sociology with special emphasis placed on the study of American institutions.

### INTRODUCTION TO CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

**(1 CREDIT FULL YEAR  
COURSE, ½ CREDIT IN PIG  
AND ½ ELECTIVE CREDIT IN  
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)**

This course will focus on the Bill of Rights and the most important historic and current US Supreme Court decisions. Students will explore the constitutional foundations of the decisions, and explain how precedents have changed the spirit of some laws. Students will listen to oral arguments, make judgments based on the facts of each case, and compare their decisions to the actual decision of the court. Students will also determine whether their status as public school students changes the protection offered to them by the US Constitution.

### INTRODUCTION TO CIVIL LAW

**(1/2 CREDIT) (P.I.G CREDIT)**

This is a one-semester elective that provides students with an introduction to "THE LAW", including an overview of various types of governments throughout history and around the world. The focus of the course will be on the American legal system in general and New York State in particular. Students will

follow emerging legal issues as they develop in the political and judicial processes. There will also be opportunities for students to explore and study a variety of careers related to the field of law. There will be outside materials, assignments and projects, as well as classroom visits and instruction by attorneys and other professionals.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**(1/2 CREDIT) (P.I.G CREDIT)**

This is a one-semester elective which provides students with an introduction to the American criminal justice system. Students will become familiar with the terminology and the framework under which the criminal justice system operates. Students will learn all the steps involved in a criminal proceeding from arrest and investigation through trial, sentencing, incarceration and the appeal process. Students will explore some of the root causes of crime and some of the alternatives to the traditional punishment/retribution/deterrence models of criminal justice. There will also be opportunities for students to explore and study a variety of careers related to the field of criminal justice. There will be outside materials, assignments and projects, as well as classroom visits and instruction by attorneys and other professionals.

### INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

**(1/2 CREDIT)**

This one-semester course will introduce the major concepts and issues of the discipline of Psychology and is designed to enable students to learn more about the human mind, human behavior, and the field of psychology. Topics include: the basic concepts of psychology; the human brain and human behavior; learning and thinking; developmental psychology; personality; abnormal psychology; and social psychology.

### PSYCHOLOGY IB (SL)

**(1 CREDIT)**

**Prerequisites: Average of 85 or better in the first three quarters of US History and Geography or an average of 75 or better in the first three quarters of IB History of the Americas, an attendance rate of 85% or better and must fit the IB Learner Profile with the motivation and desire to learn. Students who wish to appeal the prerequisite requirements may do so using the IB Program Appeal Process.**

The IB course in Psychology is designed to introduce students to the systematic study of the behavior and mental processes of humans and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major sub-fields within psychology. The students also learn the methods psychologists use in their science and

practice. This rigorous IB course is designed for students who are highly motivated and capable of being independent learners. Students taking IB Psychology must complete an Internal Assessment that requires them to replicate a psychological study. Students will conduct research on a psychological study, identify and obtain study participants, replicate the study, process and analyze the data and report their findings.

**HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS IB (HL/ YEAR 1)**

**3 UHS CREDITS, SCCC (HIS 227) (1 CREDIT)**

**Prerequisites: Average of 85 or better in the first three quarters of Global History or an average of 75 or better in the first three quarters of Global History Honors, an attendance rate of 85% or better and must fit the IB Learner Profile with the motivation and desire to learn. Students who wish to appeal the prerequisite requirements may do so using the IB Program Appeal Process.**

This course is a college-level course conducted in the high school setting designed to create life long learners through in-depth study of History of the Americas, students will engage in rigorous investigation of Nation-building and challenges: 1781-1867; the development of modern nations: 1865-1929; and the Cold War and the Americas: 1945-1981. Students will continue to advance their skills in writing, listening and

speaking through the successful completion of research papers, projects, debates, mock trials, and interviews. Practice in critical thinking, document analysis, and use of substantive evidence and historiography in developing a thesis will continue from foundations laid in Pre-IB coursework. A strong work ethic and active participation is required of all students in sharing their work through peer review, study circles and presentations. Fulfills the New York State Graduation Requirement.

**20TH CENTURY TOPICS: IB (HL/ YEAR 2)**

**3 UHS CREDITS, SCCC (HIS 229) (1 CREDIT)**

**FULFILLS THE ECONOMICS AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT (PIG) GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

**Prerequisites: Average of 80 or better in the first three quarters of IB History of the Americas, an attendance rate of 85% or better and must fit the IB Learner Profile with the motivation and desire to learn. Students who wish to appeal the prerequisite requirements may do so using the IB Program Appeal Process.**

This course is a college-level course conducted in the high school setting. This is the second year of the two-year IB Higher Level History Course. Students taking 20th Century Topics will participate in a comprehensive study of the rise and rule of single-party rulers such as Joseph Stalin and

Fidel Castro as well as two pivotal events of the 20th century, the Cold War and the Arab-Israeli Crisis. Students will continue to advance their critical thinking and writing skills through the synthesis and evaluation of historiography. As part of the course requirements, students will complete the internal assessment that was begun during their junior year and sit for the IB exam in May. This course fulfills the IB higher-level requirement for Individuals and Societies.