



## Social Studies Department Statement of Philosophy

Social Studies includes the disciplines typically classified as belonging to social and behavioral sciences as well as history, geography, government, economics, and the humanities. In order to offer varied levels of rigor to all students, the Social Studies department offers college preparatory classes, honors level courses, and College in the Schools courses.

A goal of this department is to teach the many disciplines in a manner which guides students to be critical thinkers, engaged citizens, socially conscious, and culturally aware individuals. Within in each course both primary and secondary sources are utilized to facilitate learning. In their social studies classes, students can expect to engage in a variety of active learning strategies ranging from participating in political campaigns, psychology labs, historical simulations, and living history projects.

## Social Studies Department Curriculum

Graduation Requirement: 3.5 Years

### World History

Students examine, comparatively and chronologically, the evolution of selected cultures and societies before 1500 in Asia, India, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and pre-Columbian America. Students explore such topics as religious practices and the birth of world religions, trade and interregional exchanges, human interaction with the environment, forms of political authority, and family life and gender roles.

### Honors World History

This course is designed for the highly motivated student. The faster pace and increased rigor will prepare students for more advanced social studies classes. Honors students examine, comparatively and chronologically, the evolution of selected cultures and societies before 1500 in Asia, India, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and pre-Columbian America. Students explore such topics as religious practices and the birth of world religions, trade and interregional exchanges, human interaction with the environment, forms of political authority, and family life and gender roles. The enrichment for the course involves further exploration with topics in projects and literature.

Prerequisite: Administrative and/or Teacher Recommendation

### Government

Government provides an opportunity for students to gain the knowledge and skills needed for informed and responsible participation in public life. It incorporates the study of constitutional principles and the democratic foundation of our national, state and local institutions. The course examines the political processes and structures of government grounded in an understanding of our constitution. Students will know how to participate to make a difference and will have the skills required for competent participation in the political process.

### Honors Government

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Prerequisite: Administrative and/or Teacher Recommendation

### Economics

Economics introduces basic economic concepts and principles. Emphasis is on the study of macroeconomics and the national economy. Understanding the concepts of free enterprise and economic systems is basic to studying the political institutions of the United States. The aim of civic education is not just any kind of participation by any kind of citizen; it is the participation of informed and responsible citizens.

### Honors Economics

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Prerequisite: Administrative and/or Teacher Recommendation

### US History

The study of U.S. History helps students understand the democratic traditions of the United States and how these traditions were established and how they continue in the present. During the first half of the semester the student will examine the development of American culture and society from the Columbian encounter through the Civil War. The second half of the course covers the development of American institutions and society from the Civil War to the present. Students will examine economic, social, cultural, and political themes from the multiple perspectives that have become the unique history of the United States. Class resources include the class text, primary source materials, American biographies and autobiographies, and historical fiction.

### Psychology

(Semester 1 Only)

This course examines the basic principles and methods of psychological science from an evolutionary and cultural perspective. Students use critical thinking skills to examine fascinating topics: dreaming, cultural influences, identity, learning, thinking, and the biology of behavior. Applying basic research methods, students act as skeptical scientists. This course applies to almost any career choice in today's world and provides insight into self and others.

Prerequisites: Senior; Administrative and/or Teacher Recommendation

### Sociology

(Semester 2 Only)

Students explore the concepts and theories necessary to systematic understanding of our social worlds. Topics may include considering sociology as science, the nature of large-and small-scale groups, social stratification, historical eras and social change, and race, ethnic and gender relations.

Prerequisites: Senior; Administrative and/or Teacher Recommendation

## **College in the Schools – Social Studies**

Students enrolled in the College in the Schools program will have concurrent enrollment at both SPCPA and the University of Minnesota where upon satisfactorily completing the course, students will receive social studies credit at SPCPA and the U of M.

### CIS Early American History

(Semester 1 Only)

American History to 1880 (HIST 1307)

(3.0 University of Minnesota Credits)

Issues, events, and ideas in the social, political, and intellectual history of the United States, from colonial era through the Civil War and reconstruction. Colonization, revolution, national expansion, religion, reform movements, slavery, immigration, industrialization, gender roles, and labor relations.

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior; Teacher Recommendation; Application Process

### CIS Modern American History

(Semester 2 Only)

American History From 1865 to Present (HIST 1308)

(3.0 University of Minnesota Credits)

Forces that shaped emergence of modern America, from end of Civil War to present. Shaping of the industrial/post-industrial economy. Work and everyday life. Race relations and immigration. Popular culture. Politics and reform movements. Impact of war on American society. Role of the United States as a global power, before, during, and after Cold War.

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior; Teacher Recommendation; Application Process

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College in the Schools Political Science

(Semester 1 Only)

American Democracy in a Changing World (POL 1001)

(4.0 University of Minnesota Credits)

College in the Schools Political Science is a course taken in conjunction with the University of Minnesota. College in the Schools Political Science will provide rigorous University academic challenges, focus student's learning on not only content and facts but also on critical thinking skills, and it will allow students to demonstrate learning on multiple and varied assessments. This course will examine fundamental aspects of U.S. Government, focusing on the language and logic used by political institutions in their process of governing. To illustrate and analyze the concepts of American Government, application to current public policy issues will be included. We will explore the bigger questions of what kind of society we want and the roles government should play in achieving that society.

Prerequisites: Senior; Teacher Recommendation; Application Process

College in the Schools Psychology

(Semester 2 Only, 2011-2012)

Introduction to Psychology (PSY 1001)

(4.0 University of Minnesota Credits)

Scientific study of human behavior. Problems, methods, findings of modern psychology.

Prerequisites: Senior; Teacher Recommendation; Application Process