

# **SOCIAL STUDIES**

## **Required Courses**

- Grade 9:** World Studies  
**Grade 10:** American Studies 1  
**Grade 11:** American Studies 2

### **Electives - Full Year**

- American Conflict 1 and 2 – Grades 10-12  
AP American Government – Grades 11-12  
Principles of Behavioral Science -Grades 10-12  
Principles of Sociology - Grades 10-12  
Street Law – Grades 10-12  
AP U.S. History - Grade 12 only

### **Elective – Half-Year**

- Global Awareness – Grades 10-12

### **Scheduling Policies:**

1. An "open" scheduling policy is in effect for the College Prep A and College Prep B levels of instruction. Students must qualify for admission to Honors level programs.
2. Only students enrolled in an honors class with a grade of 82 and teacher recommendation are eligible to enroll in the next year's honors or AP classes. All other students must take a pre-test in order to determine eligibility. Enrolled students who do not meet this requirement may become eligible with a passing score on a pretest, and a teacher recommendation.

## **Required Courses**

### **World Studies**

(Full year, grade 9) The Honors Program is designed for students who demonstrate an exceptional ability to comprehend and analyze historical topics through written composition. The subject matter is supplemented with outside reading assignments and primary documents. Honor students frequently elect to continue their studies in Advanced Placement History and Government courses.

### **Honors**

The history honors courses cover material at a faster pace and in greater depth than the College Prep course. Students are required to complete several extended writing projects throughout the year. In addition, students are required to write several timed essays that are completed in class. Summer assignments are also required.

**5 Credits**

### **World Studies**

(Full year, grade 9) College Prep World Studies A is a full year course designed for students who are skilled readers, critical thinkers, and proficient writers. This course traces world history from the Middle Ages through World War II. The Age of Revolutions including The French Revolution, The Industrial

### **CP-A**

Revolution, and the Scientific Revolution will be examined. Students will learn about the history of Africa, Latin America and Asia. Students will examine the development of various nations, their struggles with political, economic and social issues and how those struggles affect us today.

Each of these topics will be studied using a variety of educational materials. Students will have access to primary source documents, literature and audio-visual material that enhance learning and are appropriate for this curriculum. Students are expected to enter this course with skills that will allow them to achieve success at this level. These skills include, but are not limited to:

- The ability to critically analyze and discuss primary source documents.
- The ability to independently study historic information in order to participate in mature and thoughtful topical dialogue.
- The ability to compose, edit insightfully and produce comprehensive essays that are historically accurate and demonstrate that the student has acquired the necessary skills that are appropriate in this accelerated class.
- The ability to process information from class discussions and teacher directed lessons, analyze and organize information and refer to it in order to sufficiently prepare for successful completion of quizzes, tests, and essay assignments.

**5 Credits**

### **World Studies**

(Full year, grade 9) This course provides a cursory examination of the social, political, economic, cultural and intellectual events that have shaped our world today. Using a thematic approach, the course begins with the Middle Ages and continues through World War II. The history of Africa, Latin America and Asia are studied from origin to modern times.

### **CP-B**

The course is designed to enable every student to understand and appreciate the causative themes that have shaped other cultures, and how it is applicable to their lives. The goal of the modified program is to incorporate learning modalities in the instruction so that all students can excel. There will be a greater emphasis on developing a student-centered classroom, although teacher-directed instruction will be occasionally utilized. Cooperative and independent research projects, using the Internet, and other applications will be a focal point of this course.

**5 Credits**

### **World Studies**

(Full year, grade 9) This course provides a cursory examination of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual events that have shaped our world today. Using a thematic approach, the course begins with the Middle Ages and continues through World War II. The history of Africa, Latin America, and Asia are studied from origin to modern times. This course is designed for the student who is currently enrolled in the General English 9 course -

### **CP-C**

specifically, those students who have not met the minimum competency levels in reading and /or writing on the NJASK 8, or who have been recommended for this level by their eighth grade teacher. The course is also designed to further develop and reinforce the remediation practices offered in the English 9 courses as a means for the student to be successful in the completion of their World Studies requirement in Social Studies.

**5 Credits**

### **American Studies 1 & 2 Honors**

**Honors**

The Honors Program is designed for students who demonstrate an exceptional ability to comprehend and analyze historical topics through written composition. The subject matter is supplemented with outside reading assignments and primary documents. Honor students frequently elect to continue their studies in Advanced Placement History and Government courses. The history honors courses cover material at a faster pace and in greater depth than the College Prep A course. Students are required to complete several extended writing projects throughout the year. In addition, students are required to write several timed essays that are completed in class. Summer assignments are also required.

**Grades 10 and 11**

**5 Credits**

### **American Studies 1**

**CP-A**

This is the first part of a two-year comprehensive study of important events and personalities that created our nation. American Studies 1 A is designed for the student who can meet the demands of an accelerated pace of instruction. The curriculum will focus on the role played by the United States in the development of a modern world. Emphasis is placed on acquiring historical thinking skills, historical understanding, a clear sense of historical time, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, historical research, historical issue-analysis, appreciation of basic concepts established in historical development, as well as a fundamental understanding of the structure and operation of our government. Students will be encouraged and expected to study independently, work with others in a collaborative setting, write in an insightful, comprehensive style that reflects accurate historical information in a critical manner. Students will be expected to complete research projects that use primary source documents, Internet sources, and other teacher accepted research. Before each unit students will be given a pre-test. The pre-test will be developed from a pre-unit reading assignment and will be a component in the grading criteria.

**Grade 10**

**5 Credits**

### **American Studies 1**

**CP-B**

This is a survey course that is designed to give the student an overview and understanding of the events that helped shape the development of the United States. It will focus on the cultural, economic, political and intellectual events that affected the growth of the nation. Emphasis will also be placed on the role of the United States in the world community. Students will be expected to

identify basic historical themes that run through each unit. Collaborative learning, independent research in a student-centered classroom will be integrated with occasional teacher-centered lessons. The same units are presented in this class as in the College Prep A offering but a slower pace and with a less demanding assignment schedule. The pre-test component of the College Prep A course is not a requirement in the College Prep American Studies 1 B.

**Grade 10**

**5 Credits**

### **American Studies 1**

**CP-C**

This is a survey course that is designed to give the student an overview and understanding of the events that helped shape the development of the United States. It will focus on the cultural, economic, political and intellectual events that affected the growth of the nation. Emphasis will also be placed on the role of the United States in the world community. Students will be expected to identify basic historical themes that run through each unit. Collaborative learning, independent research in a student-centered classroom will be integrated with occasional teacher-centered lessons. The same units are presented in this class as in the College Prep B offering but a slower pace and with a less demanding assignment schedule. The class is designed as a cyberclass, using technology to enhance the writing process. 5 credits

### **American Studies 2**

**CP-A**

This course is the second part of a two-year comprehensive study of important events and personalities that created our nation. American Studies 2 A is designed for the student who can meet the demands of an accelerated pace of instruction. The curriculum will link current contemporary issues to past events, policies and decisions. As in the American Studies 1 A curriculum there will be a strong focus on the United States influence and responsibility in the modern world.

Emphasis is placed on acquiring historical thinking skills, historical understanding, a clear sense of historical time, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, historical research, historical issue-analysis, appreciation of basic concepts established in historical development, as well as a fundamental understanding of the structure and operation of our government.

Students will be encouraged and expected to study independently, work with others in a collaborative setting, and write in an insightful, comprehensive style that reflects accurate historical information in a critical manner. Students will be expected to complete research projects that use primary sources documents, Internet sources, and other teacher accepted research. Before each unit students will be given a pre-test. The pre-test will be developed from a pre-unit reading assignment and will be a component in the grading criteria.

**5 Credits**

**American Studies 2** CP-B  
 American Studies 2 B is the second year of a survey course that will continue to present the student with an overview and understanding of the events that helped shape the development of the United States. There will be a continued focus on the cultural, economic, political, and intellectual events that affected the growth of our nation. Strong connections between United States policy and the development of the modern world will be emphasized. Student requirements will continue to be similar to those of American Studies 1B to identify historical themes, and to develop historical thinking skills and demonstrate historical understanding. Collaborative learning, independent research, in a student-centered classroom will be integrated with occasional teacher-centered lessons. The same units are presented in this class as in the College Prep A offering but at a slower pace and with a less demanding assignment schedule. The pre-test component of the College Prep A course is not a requirement in College Prep American Studies 2 B. **5 Credits**

**American Studies 2** CP-C  
 American Studies 2 B is the second year of a survey course that will continue to present the student with an overview and understanding of the events that helped shape the development of the United States. There will be a continued focus on the cultural, economic, political, and intellectual events that affected the growth of our nation. Strong connections between United States policy and the development of the modern world will be emphasized. Student requirements will continue to be similar to those of American Studies 1B to identify historical themes, and to develop historical thinking skills and demonstrate historical understanding. Collaborative learning, independent research, in a student-centered classroom will be integrated with occasional teacher-centered lessons. The same units are presented in this class as in the College Prep B offering but at a slower pace and with a less demanding assignment schedule. This class is designed as a cyber class, with substantial use of technology to enhance the learning process. **5 Credits**

## ELECTIVES

**American Conflict 1** CP-A  
 This course is designed to give students an in-depth understanding of U.S. wars of the 18th and 19th Century and how these events helped shape the nation. Topics of study are the American Revolution, U.S. Civil War and the rise of the United States as a key player on the world stage. Other topics include the War of 1812, the many Indian Wars, Manifest Destiny and war with Mexico, and the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt at the turn of the century. **Grades 10 through 12** **5 Credits**

**American Conflict 2** CP-A  
 This course will focus primarily on the wars of the 20th Century and give students an in-depth understanding that the United States would no longer remain an isolated nation. Topics of study are the two world wars, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, wars in the Middle East, the rise of Islamic Fundamentalism and the continuing War on Terror into the 21st Century. **Grades 11 and 12** **5 Credits**  
**Prerequisite:** American Conflict 1 for Grade 11  
 Grade 12 with department approval

**AP American Government** AP  
 This college-level course is designed to provide an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret US politics and the analysis of specific case studies. Completion of the course prepares students to take the Advance Placement Test. Those who earn appropriate scores on AP tests become eligible to earn college credit. Students enrolled in this course must take the appropriate AP exam. Students must be enrolled in the course to take the AP exam. **Grade 11 and 12** **5 Credits**  
**Prerequisite:** American Studies 1 Honors, or  
 American Studies II Honors

**AP U.S. History** AP  
 This college-level course is designed to give students a chronological grounding in United States History and in major interpretive questions that are derived from the study of selected themes. Students examine a series of problems through specialized writing by historians and through supplementary readings, including original source documents. Completion of the course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement Test. Students enrolled in this course must take the appropriate AP exam. Those who earn appropriate scores on the AP test become eligible to earn college credit. Students must be enrolled in the course to take the AP exam. **Grade 12** **5 Credits**  
**Prerequisite:** American Studies Honors 1 and Honors 2

**Principles of Behavioral Science** CP-A  
 This is an introductory survey course studying human relationships and behavior. It will provide the student with a broad and current view of content and method of studying human behavior. Special emphasis will be placed on comparing and contrasting the different schools of thought that comprise our understanding of the nature of being human. Students will explore the area of human interaction and the need for man to live effectively within a social setting.

The concept of self, consciousness, the unconscious, motivation, personality, social interaction/influence, abnormality/adjustment, therapy, and Life Span are all areas that will be studied during this course. Students will be encouraged through use of psychological

techniques, such as journals, surveys and research to investigate "self." The student will be required to become an observer, recorder, and theorist on their own behavior. Strong emphasis will be placed on the investigation of students own personal behavior.

**Grades 10 through 12**

**5 Credits**

### **Principles of Sociology**

**CP-A**

Principles of Sociology is an elective course designed to allow students to understand, interpret and evaluate the contemporary social institutions that govern and define social interaction, and group behavior. A goal of the class is to provide students with a clearer understanding of the world and the mechanisms that motivate it. Topics such as aging, culture and deviance are explored. The class consists of individual and collaborative work as well as an extensive use of films. Course requirements include position and research papers and large-group related projects.

**Grades 10 through 12**

**5 Credits**

### **Street Law**

**CP-B**

Street Law will provide law related education, practical information, and problem solving strategies for legal issues in our society. The course will emphasize hands-on activities and classroom simulation of law related problems. Contemporary social issues such as organized crime, capital punishment, the prison system, the war on drugs, gangs and gun control will be explored. There will be a strong emphasis placed on problems currently facing students in their daily lives. On completion of the course the student will have a better understanding of the American Justice System and how best to function in a litigious society.

**Grades 11 and 12**

**5 Credits**

**Grade 10 with Department Approval**

### **Global Awareness**

**CP-A**

Global Awareness is a 1/2 year course. It will prepare students to take their place in society as well informed, knowledgeable citizens. It is expected that students will acquire proficiency, comprehension and understanding of the various levels of government, culture, and economy. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of geopolitical perspectives from a non-American point of view. Students will appreciate the international element of trade, tariffs, financing of global debt, and relieving debt of developing countries. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the political structure and goals of NATO, United Nations, and the European Union. Students will be able to appreciate and differentiate between Western and non-Western values, ethnocentrism, moral relativism and American Exceptionalism. Although emphasis is placed on government, civic responsibility, geography, and economics, students are expected to show evidence of social literacy.

There will be extensive use of varied media sources to explore course objectives such as using social media and Skype to connect with peers in other cultures to discuss global politics. Guest speakers such as college professors, missionaries, and Amnesty International could be used. There will be an attempt to

engage in an interdisciplinary project with our World Language Department to gain cultural understanding.

**Grades 10, 11, and 12**

**2.5 Credits**

This course must be taken in conjunction with Personal Finance.