
SOCIAL STUDIES

The North Carolina Social Studies Essential Standards offer a sound, thoughtful, and defensible curricular framework that is designed to enable all students at all grade levels to acquire the essential knowledge, understanding, and skills needed to be informed, active citizens in the 21st century. The five organizational strands of the social studies program: history, geography, civics and government, economics and financial literacy, and culture are addressed with increasing rigor and relevance at each grade level. Underlying these strands is the belief that all students should understand social studies and develop civic efficacy. Students should also acquire and perfect knowledge, understanding, and skills of individual and group inquiry and examine a broad range of peoples and cultures. From social studies students gain the attitudes and values that enable them to be effective problem-solvers, good decision-makers, and wise planners. As a result of an effective social studies education, they are prepared to deal with present, recurring, and unforeseen problems at the local, state, national, and global levels.

The Social Studies Essential Standards emphasizes the following strands as a framework for social studies at every level:

- Individual identity and development
- Cultures and diversity
- Government and active citizenship
- Historic perspectives
- Geographic relationships
- Economics and development
- Global connections
- Technological influences and society

Students entering the ninth grade in 2012- 13 will need four social studies credits for graduation. The fourth requirement is satisfied with the division of American History into two courses. Students may opt to take AP US History, which encompasses all information in both American History I and II, and may be substituted for the American History I and II course requirements. If a student elects to take AP US History as a substitute for the required American History I and II courses, then that student must take a social studies elective course in order to meet the new requirements of four social studies credits for graduation. If this is the case, the elective course may be taken at any time and not necessarily directly preceding or directly following the AP course. American History I should directly precede American History II. Any social studies elective listed satisfies the fourth social studies credit.

WORLD HISTORY

Course Code: 43032X0C **Fee (if applicable):** n/a

Offered at: All High Schools **Grade(s):** 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: None

WORLD HISTORY-HONORS - Course Code: 43035X0C

World History is a survey course that explores recurring themes of human experience around the globe. Students will analyze the themes of geography and analyze the cultural traits of civilizations from ancient and modern times. World History provides the foundation that enables students to acquire knowledge used in American History: The Founding Principles, Civics and Economics and American History.

WORLD HISTORY-ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Course Code: 4A087X0CAP **Fee (if applicable):** n/a

Offered at: JHS, NHS, SWHS **Grade(s):** 10,11,12

Prerequisite: None

Recommendation: World History - Honors

The purpose of the Advanced Placement World History course is to use relevant factual knowledge taken from primary and secondary sources with high-order thinking skills to acquire a greater understanding of the development of global processes, from ancient times to the present day. The course emphasizes the character of change and continuity in world structures and their impacts. Furthermore, this study will evaluate the interchange of major societies in the global community and the results of that interplay. Throughout the duration of this course, the instruction lends itself to chronological periodization as well as thematic perspective.

Students taking this course are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement exam.

AMERICAN HISTORY I

Course Code: 43042X0C **Fee (if applicable):** n/a

Offered at: All High Schools **Grade(s):** 10,11,12

Prerequisite: None

AMERICAN HISTORY I-HONORS - Course Code: 43045X0C

American History I: The Founding Principles will begin with the European exploration of the new world through Reconstruction. Students will examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States from European exploration and colonial settlement to the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. Students will learn about the important political and economic factors that contributed to the development of colonial America and the outbreak of the American Revolution as well as the consequences of the Revolution, including the writing and key ideas of the U.S. Constitution. American History I: The Founding Principles will guide students as they study the establishment of political parties, America's westward expansion, the growth of sectional conflict, how that sectional conflict led to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War, including Reconstruction.

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AMERICAN HISTORY II

Course Code: 43052X0C **Fee (if applicable):** n/a

Offered at: All High Schools **Grade(s):** 11,12

Prerequisite: American History I

AMERICAN HISTORY II-HONORS - Course Code: 43055X0C

The Founding Principles will guide students from the late nineteenth century time period through the early 21st century. Students will examine the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction era to present times. The essential standards of American History II: The Founding Principles will trace the change in the ethnic composition of American society; the movement toward equal rights for racial minorities and women; and the role of the United States as a major world power. An emphasis is placed on the expanding role of the federal government and federal courts as well as the continuing tension between the individual and the state. The desired outcome of this course is for students to develop an understanding of the cause-and-effect relationship between past and present events, recognize patterns of interactions, and understand the impact of events on the United States in an interconnected world.

AMERICAN HISTORY: THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES, CIVICS AND ECONOMICS

Course Code: 42092X0C **Fee (if applicable):** n/a

Offered at: All High Schools **Grade(s):** 10,11,12

Prerequisite: None

AMERICAN HISTORY: THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES, CIVICS AND ECONOMICS-HONORS

Course Code: 42095X0C

Formerly known as Civics and Economics, American History: The Founding Principles, Civics and Economics provides a framework for understanding the basic tenets of American democracy, practices of American government as established by the United States Constitution, basic concepts of American politics and citizenship and concepts in macro and micro economics and personal finance. The essential standards are organized under three strands – Civics and Government, Personal Financial Literacy and Economics. The Civics and Government strand develops students' increased understanding of constitutional democracy and the fundamental principles and values upon which they are founded, the skills necessary to participate as effective and responsible citizens and the knowledge of how to use democratic procedures for making decisions and managing conflict. The Economic and Personal Financial Literacy strands provide students with an understanding of the role economic factors play in making economic decisions, the ability to reason logically about key economic issues and manage personal financial resources effectively for lifetime financial security.

CURRENT AFFAIRS AND ISSUES-HONORS

Course Code: 96105X0CCA **Fee (if applicable):** n/a

Offered at: JHS, SBHS (11th, 12th only), SWHS (11th, 12th only) **Grade(s):** 9, 10, 11,12

Prerequisite: None

Current Affairs and Issues is an honors-level course that investigates the world through thematic perspectives providing students with an understanding of the uniqueness of different cultures as compared to their own cultural identity. This course will investigate the cultures of three other world language populations (Spanish speaking populations, Chinese speaking populations and Arabic speaking populations). Current Affairs and Issues features cross-cultural learning experiences through the themes of culture and its characteristics, language, geopolitics, dynamic history, and religion. Issues such as human rights, gender issues, resource problems and conflicts will be investigated by students with an intercultural lens. Students will employ critical thinking skills and begin to ask questions about what is happening, why it is happening, and where it is happening. Students will comprehend the significance and degree to which cultures are becoming increasingly interconnected and how this connectivity affects their potential impact as 21st century global citizens.

PSYCHOLOGY

Course Code: 44032X0C **Fee (if applicable):** n/a

Offered at: NHS **Grade(s):** 10,11,12

Prerequisite: None

PSYCHOLOGY-HONORS

Course Code: 44035X0C

Offered at: JHS, SWHS (Grade 11, 12), WOHS (Grade 11) **Grade(s):** 11, 12

The elective course, Psychology, engages students in the understanding, articulation, and dissemination of psychology as a science. Students are introduced to psychology, with a focus on the scientific study of human development, learning, motivation, and personality. The course emphasizes the empirical examination of behavior and mental processes and infuses perspectives fostering students' growth, development, and understanding of cultural diversity. Students of psychology acquire information from a variety of sources, use information as they make decisions and evaluations, and solve problems. The study of psychology enables students to recognize and cope with uncertainty and ambiguity in human behavior.

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PSYCHOLOGY-ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Course Code: 4A057X0CAP **Fee (if applicable):** n/a

Offered at: JHS (Grades 11, 12),
DHS (Grades 11, 12), RHS, SBHS,
SWHS, WOHS **Grade(s):** 10,11,12

Prerequisite: None

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Topics include History and Approaches, Research Methods, Biological Bases of Behavior, Sensation and Perception, States of Consciousness, Learning, Cognition, Motivation and Emotion, Developmental Psychology, Personality, Testing and Individual Differences, Abnormal Behavior, Treatment of Abnormal Behavior, and Social Psychology. Students taking this course are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement exam.

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Course Code: 44002X0C **Fee (if applicable):** n/a

Offered at: NHS, WOHS **Grade(s):** 10,11,12

Prerequisite: None

Sociology-Honors – Course Code: 44005X0C

This course is designed to give students the tools necessary to concentrate on the systematic study of human society and human interaction. Students will develop a sociological imagination in which they will observe the connections between their personal lives within society, as well as public policy issues. Using observation, the scientific method, and cross-cultural examination, students will discover how patterns of behavior develop, culture is learned, and social predictions are made.

TURNING POINTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY-HONORS

Course Code: 43095X0C **Fee (if applicable):** n/a

Offered at: JHS, NHS, RHS, SBHS,
SWHS, WOHS **Grade(s):** 10,11,12

Prerequisite: None

This course emphasizes in great depth 10-15 key turning points in American History. These are “hinge” events in our nation’s history, caused by, and subsequently contributing to, major social, cultural, political, and/or economic events. The continuum of the turning point timeline should have “ripple effects” between each point. These turning points when considered chronologically should ultimately provide a narrative of United States history. A major element of each turning point should be an understanding of historical methods and the use of historical inquiry. Students should essentially become historians to better understand and appreciate the narrative of a people, a nation, and a world. (Possible Turning Points: 9/11, Roanoke Island/Jamestown

Settlement, Salem Witch Trials, Proclamation of 1763, Election of 1800, Invention of the Cotton Gin, The Liberator/Nat Turner's Rebellion, The Mexican War, The Compromise of 1877, Chicago's World Fair, McKinley's Assassination, The 19th Amendment, The Scopes-Monkey Trial, The New Deal Coalition, The Little Rock 9, 1968, The Fall of the Berlin Wall).

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS-ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Course Code: 4A067X0CAP

Fee (if applicable): n/a

Offered at: NHS, RHS, SBHS,
SWHS, WOHS

Grade(s): 11,12
(Second Semester
preceded by American
History: The Founding
Principles, Civics and
Economics first
semester)

Prerequisite: (Second Semester preceded by American History: The Founding Principles, Civics and Economics first semester)

Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics will provide students an intellectual foundation for observing, analyzing, and understanding national politics in the United States. Using primary and secondary source documents, as well as analysis of specific examples, students will examine and evaluate the institutions of American government, political parties and elections, mass media, political behavior, public policies, and the development of individual rights and liberties and their impact on citizens. The content of this course is the equivalent to that of an introductory college course in U.S. government and politics. Students taking this course are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement exam.

UNITED STATES HISTORY-ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Course Code: 4A077X0CAP

Fee (if applicable): n/a

Offered at: DHS (Grades 11, 12
only), JHS, NHS, RHS, SBHS, SWHS,
WOHS

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: Turning Points in American History-Honors – SBHS and SWHS

Recommendation: American History: The Founding Principles, Civics and Economics

AP US History is a semester-long course. AP US History is a survey course covering American History from the Pre-Columbian period to the present. The class is taught in accordance with the College Board AP US curriculum framework, and is designed to prepare students for the AP US History Exam in May. The AP US History course focuses on the development of historical thinking skills (chronological reasoning, comparing and contextualizing, crafting historical arguments using historical evidence, and interpreting and synthesizing historical narrative) and an understanding of content learning objectives organized around seven themes, such as identity, peopling, and American in the world. The

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purpose of the course is to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States History. The AP United States History course will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format. Possible Summer Assignment.