



SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

WORLD HISTORY PART I

World History to 1500 A.D. will have students explore the historical development of people, places, and patterns of life from ancient times until about 1500 A.D. Students will study the origins of civilizations using texts, maps, picture stories, diagrams, and charts. Chronological skills, inquiry/research skills, and technology skills will be emphasized. This class is geared towards the college-bound student. It also fulfills the need for the fourth social studies credit that is required for an advanced diploma.

PRE-A.P. WORLD HISTORY PART I

Pre- A.P. World History Part I is an advanced course in world history from pre-history to 1500 A.D. Students will explore the historical development of people, places and patterns of life from ancient times until 1500 A.D. in terms of the impact on Western Civilization. Students will review and strengthen map and globe skills, skills in interpreting and using information, and historical thinking skills. This class will be a continuation of the development of Pre-AP social studies techniques designed to teach students with the skills necessary to be successful in Advanced Placement courses. Techniques for technical essay writing and the use of document based questions are a focus in this challenging course.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

No description available.

PRE-AP WORLD GEOGRAPHY

No description available.

WORLD HISTORY PART II

World History Part II covers history from 1500 A.D. to the present with emphasis on Western Europe. Geographic influences on history continue to be explored, but increasing attention is given to political boundaries that developed with the evolution of nations. Significant attention will be given to the ways in which scientific and technological revolutions created new economic conditions that in turn produced social and political changes. Noteworthy people and events of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries will be emphasized for their strong connections to contemporary issues.

AP WORLD HISTORY

AP World History is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to critically study global historical events. In this rigorous course, students will study history from pre-history to the present according to both the AP curriculum and Virginia Standards of Learning for World History. This course is equivalent to a full-year introductory college course and will

prepare students for intermediate college courses. College credit may be earned by taking the AP World History exam.

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the study of human society and social behavior as a group rather than as individuals. The nature of social life and human interaction will be examined.

Some of the units covered are culture, conformity, deviance, marriage, family, education, religion, cults, minorities, and crime.

PSYCHOLOGY I

Psychology is the social science which is concerned with the behavior of humans and animals. Psychology I will present an overview of all areas of psychology related to all types of behaviors. Students will have opportunities to study both theory and application of scientific research and recent discoveries. Topics studied will be learning patterns, optical illusions, L-Dopa, memory, dreams, classical conditioning, parts and functions of the brain, sensation, and perception.

PSYCHOLOGY II

Psychology II is the social science concerned with the behavior of humans and animals. The high school psychology course has great potential for drawing on the natural attributes of curiosity and development of adolescents. The course will provide students with the opportunity of self-knowledge, preparation for stages in life in the future, and an arena to test ideas and correct misconceptions along with an academic background for the study of post-secondary psychology. Some of the units of study will be abnormal behavior, multiple personality syndrome, paranoid schizophrenia, serial killers, personality, Myer-Briggs, and intelligence.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

This course is a junior/senior elective designed to promote the usage of critical thinking skills in the analysis of current affairs. Students will study geography, culture, and history in order to gain a greater insight into the events that are shaping the world. This knowledge will then be used to promote informed class discussion on current issues and events. To enhance understanding of current affairs, students will study the impact of mass media, U.S. foreign and domestic policy, global economic trends and environmental policy.

DUAL CREDIT AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY

*see separate description sheet

DUAL CREDIT AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*see separate description sheet



ADVANCED U.S. HISTORY AP OR DC?????

BOTH COURSES ARE DESIGNED TO MEET THE ROANOKE COUNTY GUIDELINES AND SOL STANDARDS AS WELL AS PROVIDE THE STUDENT WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN COLLEGE CREDIT. THE SAME LEVEL OF SKILLS IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN BOTH CLASSES. THESE INCLUDE EXCELLENT WRITING SKILLS, ABILITY TO READ AND COMPREHEND COLLEGE-LEVEL MATERIAL, ABILITY TO TAKE NOTES IN A LECTURE FORMAT, EXCELLENT ANALYTICAL SKILLS, AN ADVANCED VOCABULARY, AND A HIGH DEGREE OF SELF-MOTIVATION.

THE MAIN DIFFERENCE IN THE TWO COURSES IS THE INTENSITY OF LEARNING(IN AP, ONE MUST GO MUCH MORE IN DEPTH) AND WRITING A DOCUMENT-BASED ESSAY QUESTION(ONE MUST LEARN HOW TO DO THIS IN AP BECAUSE THE ONE THIRD OF THE AP TEST IS A DBQ).

BOTH COURSES CAN RESULT IN COLLEGE CREDIT EARNED. IN DUAL CREDIT YOU HAVE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE EACH SEMESTER(EARN A "C" OR BETTER). IN AP ONE MUST TAKE AND PASS A STANDARDIZED NATIONAL EXAM GIVEN IN MAY AND SCORE A 3, 4, OR 5.

ANY COLLEGE THAT ACCEPTS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CREDIT WILL ACCEPT DC EARNED CREDIT. SOME COLLEGES WILL NOT ACCEPT AP SCORES LOWER THAN A 4 BUT YOU NEED TO CHECK WITH THE COLLEGES YOUR ARE INTERESTED IN.

BOTH COURSES RESULT IN WEIGHTED GRADES IN ROANOKE COUNTY.

REASONS TO TAKE AP OR DC HISTORY

*YOU LIKE HISTORY☺

**YOU ARE SELF-MOTIVATED

***YOU WANT TO GET IN A REALLY GOOD COLLEGE

****YOU WANT TO BE ACADEMICALLY CHALLENGED

*****YOU WANT TO EARN COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL

IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE SEE MRS. LAUGHLIN IN ROOM 113.

Advanced U.S. Government AP or DC?

Both courses are designed to meet the Roanoke County guidelines and SOL standards as well as provide the student with the opportunity to earn college credit. *The same level of skills* are necessary in order to be successful *in both classes*. These include *excellent writing skills, ability to read and comprehend college-level material, ability to take notes in a lecture format, excellent analytical skills, an advanced vocabulary, and a high degree of self-motivation*.

The main difference in the two courses is the *intensity of learning* (in AP, one must go into much more depth) and *writing a highly organized free-response question* (one must learn to do this in AP because the AP test is one-third FRQ).

Both courses can result in earned college credit. In Dual Credit (DC) you have to successfully complete each semester (earn a “C” or better). In AP you must pass a standardized national test in May and score a 3, 4, or 5.

In DC government you pay tuition to Virginia Western Community College for each semester. In AP there is a fee to take the AP exam in May.

Any college that accepts community college credit will accept DC earned credit. Some colleges will not accept AP scores lower than a 4 but you need to check with the colleges you are interested in.

In-state colleges will generally accept DC credit. Out-of-state schools are not required to accept DC credit, but generally will accept an AP score or 3, 4, or 5 because it is a national standard. DC students may also take the AP exam, but will want to let their teacher know ASAP so that they make sure that everything they need is covered in class.

Both courses result in weighted grades in Roanoke County. If you earn an A you get five points toward your GPA, if you earn a B you get 4 points toward your GPA, and if you earn a C you get 3 points toward your GPA. (D and F are not weighted)

Reasons to AP or DC U.S. Government

1. You like government, politics, and public affairs.
2. You are self-motivated.
3. You want to get into a really good college or university.
4. You want to be academically challenged.
5. You want to earn college credit in high school.

If you have any additional questions, please see Mrs. Laughlin in room 113, or Mr. Beach or Mr. Kavanaugh in room 103.