

Social Studies Course Options

Cypress Woods High School

Core Classes:

Course Name	L	K	AP	Dual Credit
<p>World Geography (2 semesters, offered to 9-12 graders but traditionally a freshman-level course)</p>	<p>Outside reading—chapter assignments requiring students to take notes with each unit, assessed by reading quizzes. Testing and projects. Basics of world geography covered with special emphasis on regional variations and change over time.</p>	<p>Higher level thinking skills are practiced. Outside reading—chapter assignments requiring students to take notes with each unit, assessed by reading quizzes. Much more in-depth; outside reading and notes/outlines for every unit requiring time-management skills and a self-directed learner. Projects and tests are much more detailed. This course will have a regional focus with special attention paid to patterns and processes, movement, and societal structures.</p>	<p>See description for Human Geography below.</p>	<p>Not offered</p>
<p>Human Geography (2 semesters, offered to 9-12 graders but traditionally a freshman-level course)</p>	<p>Not offered</p>	<p>Not offered</p>	<p>Will replace the World Geography requirement. Challenging, requiring initiative, time management skills and self motivation. This class is geared towards first time AP students with support built in for learning how to take notes, write for AP exams, and answer AP style questions. Provides training for the national AP College Exam in May. Come be part of a program with consistently high scores and have the chance to earn college credit.</p>	<p>Not offered</p>
<p>World History (2 semesters, offered to 9-12 graders but traditionally a sophomore-level course)</p>	<p>Basic overview of significant time periods, people, and events from world history; writing skills and higher-level thinking skills are emphasized and practiced; occasional outside reading required – for each unit chapter sections are assigned and students must complete guided readings and/or take notes; students are assessed through testing, projects, quizzes, and daily assignments</p>	<p>More in-depth study of significant time periods, people, and events from world history; writing skills and higher-level thinking skills are emphasized and frequently practiced; frequent outside reading is required -- chapter assignments requiring students to take own notes from the passage and then assessed by reading quizzes; other assessments include testing, projects, and daily assignments along with some long term research projects</p>	<p>More global in scope with an emphasis on non-western history; students can expect college-level rigor and to cover topics at a rapid pace; students are required to read frequently outside of class; provides training for the National AP College Exam that students can take in May; students may earn college credit if they pass the AP exam</p>	<p>Not offered</p>

Course Name	L	K	AP	Dual Credit
U.S. History (2 semesters, offered to sophomores in College Academy and juniors, <u>required for graduation</u>)	Outside reading—chapter assignments requiring students to take notes with each unit, assessed by reading quizzes. Testing and projects. Higher level thinking, discussing and writing skills practiced. One outside book during the 2nd semester	Outside reading—chapter assignments requiring students to take notes with each unit, assessed by reading quizzes. More depth required through researching, analyzing, and discussing primary documents. Analytical writing and informational reading skills enhanced. Outside readings required. Technology skills integrated.	Unlike "K" or "L" level, covers material from the era of exploration to the present. Provides training for the national AP College Exam in May. Challenging, requiring initiative and self-motivation and outside reading. Students may earn college credit if they pass the AP exam.	Covers material from the era of exploration to the present. Students earn six hours of college credit for a tremendously reduced tuition fee through Lone Star College. Challenging, requiring initiative and self-motivation.
U.S. Government (1 semester, offered to seniors, <u>required for graduation</u>)	Basic overview of the structure and function of the U.S. government and political system. Outside reading—chapter assignments requiring students to complete the reading guide, assessed by reading quizzes. Testing and projects. Basics are covered.	Outside reading—chapter assignments requiring students to create outlines with each unit, assessed by reading quizzes or Q&A sessions. Keep up with current events. Higher level thinking skills are practiced. Higher level assignments, tests, and projects.	Provides training for the national AP College Exam in May. Challenging, requiring initiative and self-motivation. Students may earn college credit if they pass the AP exam.	Overview of the structure and function of the U.S. government and political system. Students earn three hours of college credit for a tremendously reduced tuition fee through Lone Star College. Challenging, requiring initiative and self-motivation. Activities include class debates, simulations, discussions, unit tests, and outside readings.
Economics (1 semester, offered to seniors, <u>required for graduation</u>)	An on-level course that is an introduction to Microeconomics and Macroeconomics that covers topics from supply and demand to fiscal and monetary policies. Major grades include tests and an Eco Fair project where students will make and sell products. Basics are covered and higher level thinking skills are practiced. Some are co-teach classes with special education students mainstreamed.	An advanced level course that covers the basics of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. There will be outside reading responsibilities — assignments requiring students to take notes, assessed by reading quizzes. Keep up with current events. Higher level assignments, tests, and projects including Eco Fair.	An introduction to macroeconomics. It provides training for the national AP College Exam in May which students can take for an opportunity to earn college credit if they pass the AP exam. This class has outside reading responsibilities as well as a rigorous in class curriculum. Macroeconomics is a course requiring initiative and self-motivation.	Not offered

Electives:

L-Level Courses	
African American Studies (2 semesters, 10-12 graders)	Focuses on the historical and cultural contributions of African Americans. This course develops an understanding of the historical roots of African American culture, especially as it pertains to social, economic, and political interactions within the broader context of United States history.
Mexican American Studies (2 semesters, 10-12 graders)	Focuses on the historical and cultural contributions of Mexican Americans. The course emphasizes events in the 20th and 21st centuries, but students will also engage with events prior to the 20th century.
Personal Financial Literacy (1 semester, 10-12 graders)	Designed to teach students how to analyze decisions involving earning and spending, saving and investing, credit and borrowing, insuring and protecting, and college and postsecondary education and training.

L-Level Courses Con't	
Psychology (1 semester, 11-12 graders)	Designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Topics of Study Include: Neuroscience , how children grow and develop, sleep and dreams, drugs and how they work, intelligence and IQ testing, personality, emotion, motivation, how the eyes, ears, and other sensory organs work, memory techniques, psychological disorders and treatment, relationships and much more. This course is an excellent introduction for any student interested in pursuing a career in psychology, medicine, or counseling.
Sociology (1 semester, 11-12 graders)	A social studies course for students who are interested in enhancing their understanding of themselves and the society in which they live. Sociology helps us to look more objectively at our society as well as other cultures and societies. The course deals with typical situations which people commonly experience in their daily lives. Some of the topics discussed include: culture, group behaviors, adolescence, adulthood, family, religion, education, politics, economics, gender, social class, dating, deviance/crime and punishment, conformity, and social change. Sociology can be taken pass/fail.
Street Law (1 or 2 semesters, 11-12 graders)	1 st semester focuses on Criminal Law; 2 nd semester on Civil Law, which includes units on torts (personal injury), types of discrimination and First Amendment liberties. One project per semester. Final Exams are comprehensive per semester. Student may take one semester (choice of fall or spring) or full year. The course can be taken pass/fail. Great course for any student who has an interest in social/legal topics and/or has an interest in a legal career.

K-Level Courses	
World Area Studies K (1 or 2 semesters, 11-12 graders)	Designed to provide students the opportunity to study the geography, culture, history, politics, and economic development of selected regions and countries. Current world problems, such as population growth, global pollution, nuclear weapons, arms control, and world hunger will be explored. The course allows for flexibility regarding countries studied within each region as they relate to current events. Methods for resolving international problems will be analyzed.

AP Courses	
European History AP (2 semesters, 11-12 graders)	This is a college level course that introduces students to the cultural, economic, political and social developments in European history since 1450. The goals of AP Euro are to develop (a) an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, (b) an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and (c) an ability to express historical understanding in writing.
Psychology AP (1 semester, 11-12 graders)	A college level class that uses a college level textbook to focus on the topics in greater detail. AP Psychology involves group work, experiments, independent reading and research, and active classroom participation by each student. Intrinsic motivation is essential, independent reading and note taking are required. This course is designed to prepare students over the course of the semester to take the AP test for college credit.

Dual Credit Courses	
DC Psychology (1 semester, 11-12 graders)	A college level class that uses a college level textbook to focus on the topics listed above and more in greater detail. DC Psychology involves group work, experiments, independent reading and research, and active classroom participation by each student. Intrinsic motivation is essential, independent reading and note taking are required. Students will receive college credit upon successful completion of this course.
DC Texas Government (1 semester, 12th graders)	Texas Government is a required course for graduation from all Texas universities that receive state support or aid (Texas Education Code 51.301). Many other universities also accept this course as a fulfillment of additional government requirements. The course focuses on the basic structure and function of Texas government and politics from its beginning to present day. The class is rigorous and includes outside readings, class discussions, case studies, unit tests, and quizzes. Students will receive college credit upon successful completion of this course.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Which social studies courses are required for graduation from high school?** The State of Texas requires all students to successfully complete EITHER World/Human Geography or World History, AND U.S. History, Government, and Economics in order to graduate from high school.
- **How many years of social studies should I take in high school?** Students are required to take three years of social studies (core courses) to graduate from high school. However, some universities recommend four years of social studies. Therefore, it is HIGHLY suggested that all students plan to take at least four years of social studies in high school.
- **How do I know if I should take an upper level course as a freshman?** Most students who successfully complete an upper level social studies course in 8th grade should be well-equipped to take a K or AP course as a freshman. If a student plans to take AP or Dual Credit courses at any point throughout high school, HGAP is a great way to learn basic skills that will help them to be successful and to also potentially earn college credit. We encourage students to aim high and challenge themselves their first year in high school.
- **What is the difference in work expectations between an L-level and a K-level class?** Since K-level is considered an advanced level course, students are expected to complete outside readings, homework assignments, and projects. Student discourse is a regular part of class expectations, and tests and quizzes are also more rigorous than L-level exams.
- **What is the difference between an AP and Dual Credit class?**
 - **AP Courses** are designed to give you the experience of an intro-level college class while you're still in high school. Students can earn college credit for the class if they pass the AP exam at the end of the year. Each university determines the passing score to earn credit and determines which course will be replaced by the exam. For example, some schools might require a score of a 3 to earn credit while others will only accept a 5. There is a fee to take the exam.
 - **Dual Credit Courses** are created in partnership with Lone Star College and are taught as an intro-level college course. If a student successfully completes the course, college credit is awarded. It is not necessary to pass an additional exam. There is a fee to take the course, but textbooks are provided.
- **How do I know whether I should take an AP or Dual Credit class?** Most universities accept either AP or dual credit hours. However, it is always best to check with the universities one might attend before making a final decision.

All Social Studies courses follow the TEKS as mandated by TEA. The TEKS may be accessed online at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/index.html>

