

URSULINE ACADEMY 2018-2019 Curriculum Guide

SOCIAL STUDIES

SS 912 WORLD HISTORY I

Grade: 9

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: Required for all freshmen

Description: This course is arranged into two periods or themes, which focus on the developments made in human societies around the globe from the Paleolithic Period to about 600 C.E. Students will focus on developing the skills necessary for learning history, for example: reading, writing, map skills, critical thinking and evaluation of sources.

SS 920 WORLD HISTORY II

Grade: 10

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: SS 912

Description: This course traces the development of World History via themes from the Ancient to the Modern World. This course is arranged into four themes which focus on the changes occurring in human civilization around the globe from 600 C.E. to the present day. The thematic approach encourages students to make connections between the people and places we study within each theme, allowing students more time for learning essential concepts and helping them to develop critical historical, geographical, reading, writing and thinking skills. The themes and key concepts discussed are intended to provide foundational knowledge for future college-level study of history.

SS 929 HONORS WORLD HISTORY II

Grade: 10

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and SS 912

Description: This is the initial honors-level course in the social studies curriculum. The class traces the development of World History via themes from the Ancient to the Modern World. This course is arranged into four themes which focus on the changes occurring in human civilization around the globe from 600 C.E. to the present day. The thematic approach encourages students to make connections between the people and places we study within each theme. Honor students are expected to make connections between political, economic, geographic, and cultural developments of the cultures studied. Students should expect to be challenged to participate in class discussion, read and write at an honors-level, and to work independently.

SS 930 UNITED STATES HISTORY: CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT

Grade: 11

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: SS 920/SS 929

Description: This course traces the development of the United States from the pre-Civil War period to the modern day. Students will explore the political, economic, geographic, and cultural development of the United States.

SS 931 SOCIOLOGY

Grade: 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: This course focuses on society and will discuss the relationships between people in diverse cultures. Students will study the methods that social institutions use to define cultural “norms” (i.e. values, principles morals, and ethics). This course will also study the methods which various cultures use to define “social problems” (poverty, delinquency, racism, sexism, crises in education and health care, and urban/environmental issues). Understanding cultural diversity is a key objective, the ultimate goal for the course is for students to understand how all cultural norms are relative.

SS 935 PSYCHOLOGY

Grade: 11 or 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: This course is an introduction to the study of psychology, the science of human behavior. We will examine the five major areas (or schools) of psychology, psychoanalytic theories, behaviorism, social learning theories, trait theories, and humanistic psychology. This course will also evaluate abnormal psychology, thereby examining the major categories of psychological disorders and the various theories on the respective psychological treatments. The students are encouraged to become involved through class discussion and debate, as well as through the readings, research, and written assignments.

SS 950 AP/HONORS PSYCHOLOGY

Grade: 11, 12

Credit: 1

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Seniors taking the class shall have achieved at least a grade of “B” in AP US History, or an “A” in US History and the approval of the instructor. Juniors taking the class must be enrolled in sophomore Honors World History and have at least an “A” in the class.

Description: The AP Psychology is an honors-level, full year course designed to help students understand the study of the behavior and mental processes of people. Through this course students are exposed to the psychological facts and principles associated with the major subfields of psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

This class will expose students to the history of psychology (beginning with Sigmund Freud) as well as the expanding schools (or approaches) of psychological thought. The various psychological research methods are a key component of understanding the historical context of this field. The students will be exposed to various biological and behavioral approaches to understanding the acquisition of personality (i.e. learning, cognition, motivation, and emotion). Through this course students will also be exposed to developmental psychology—beginning at infancy and moving throughout the lifespan. Through the course the student will understand the various causes of abnormal behavior and the array of treatments associated with the various categories of abnormal psychology. Ultimately, students will be shown how psychological thought can help one better understand social behavior. This is an AP/Honors course designed for students who seek a more rigorous course of study than that provided by the one-semester, non-honors option. The class will be taught at a college level and pace, and students may achieve college credit by taking the Advanced Placement test in May (there is no 1-8-1-8 option for this course).

Special cost or materials: Fee for taking the AP test/cost of AP review book

SS 936 THE HOLOCAUST – THEN AND NOW

Grade: 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: “The Holocaust – Then and Now” is a class that will look at the genocide perpetrated against the Jews by the German government in World War II. We will look at the motives, actions, and results of the Holocaust. We will then move on to a more general discussion of other genocides that have occurred in the world- for example, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur—in an attempt to assess why such tragedies occur and how they can be prevented in future.

SS 939 AP/HONORS UNITED STATES HISTORY: A SURVEY OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Grade: 11

Credit: 1 Credit

Length: 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: A grade of “A” in SS 920; “B+” in SS 929; teacher recommendation

Description: This is an honors-level course which may be taken for college credit, either through the 1-8-1-8 program through St. Louis University or by taking the Advanced Placement exam in May. **This class is taught at a college level and pace.**

The class is a **rigorous** survey of American history from the colonial period to the Reagan administration. Students will pursue a course of study which involves large amounts of reading (of text, documents, and other sources), research, and writing. Students will be encouraged to participate in class discussion and debate, and are challenged to become independent and critical thinkers.

Special cost or materials: Fee for college credit and/or for the Advanced Placement exam.

SS 942 MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY

Grade: 10, 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: This course explores American history and popular culture in the modern age. Beginning with the end of World War II, this class focuses on telling history via the films, television, and music of the post-war era. Using films and television, as primary sources, the students will investigate such topics as the Baby Boom, the rise of Suburbia, the invention and influence of television, the birth of the American teen, as well as Civil Rights, the Sixties Anti-War Movement, and the fight for Women’s rights in the seventies. The class will focus on using modern media, music, television, and film to teach the history of the time, and to encourage students to “think like historians,” as they explore these sources.

SS 943 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Grade: 12

Credit: ½ Credit, **required for all seniors**

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: SS 930

Description: This class is meant to give the students an understanding of the American Constitution and political process. We will study the Constitution, bringing in current issues that challenge our government today. All Missouri high school students are required to pass a Constitution test for graduation; that test is given as the final examination for this class.

SS 946 YOU AND THE LAW

Grade: 11, 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: NONE

Description: This course will help students to understand how the legal system in the United States works. Students will study the different kinds of crime, police investigation procedures, as well as looking at the role of the courts and law in our state. This class would be beneficial for any student with an interest in criminal justice, police work, or the law.

SS 949 AP/HONORS UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Grade: 12

Credit: ½ Credit

Length: 1 Semester

Prerequisite: The student shall have achieved at least a grade of "B" in AP United States History/SS 939

Description: This course is an honors-level course taken for one semester at the senior level. **Students who wish to get college credit for this class may do so by taking the AP exam in May. (1-8-1-8 credit is not available for this class.)** This class is taught at a college level and pace. Advanced Placement (AP) Government and Politics is a review of the American government and political process. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the individuals and institutions that shape the American political system. Students will pursue a course of rigorous study which will include large amounts of reading (of the text, documents, and other materials) research, and writing. Students will be encouraged to participate in classroom discussion and debate, and will be challenged to become independent and critical thinkers. Out-of-the-classroom review sessions will be offered to help prepare students for the AP Examination if they choose to take it.

Special cost or materials: Fee for the Advanced Placement exam /Advanced Placement review book