

Social Studies Requirements

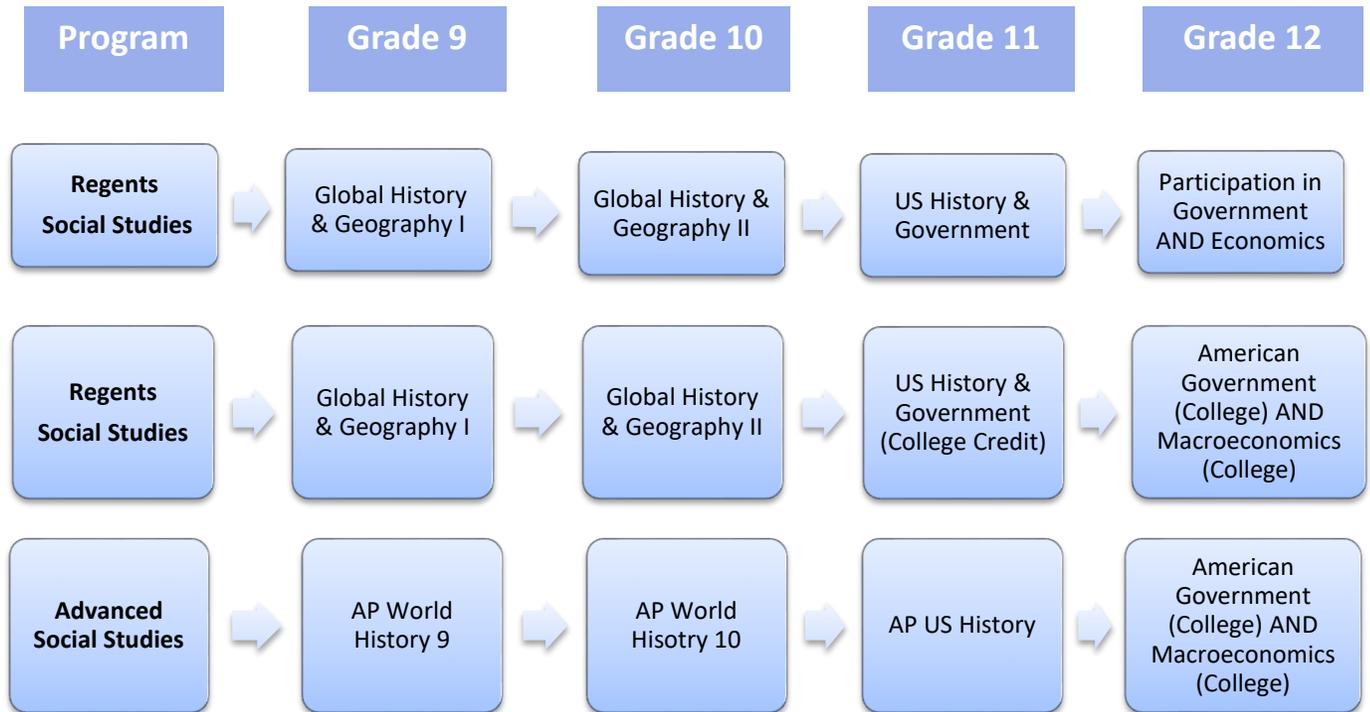
Regents and Advanced Regents Diplomas

In order to obtain a Regents Diploma or an Advanced Regents Diploma, a student must earn 4 units of social studies credit plus earn a grade of 65% on the Global History and US History Regents exams. [*Note: A student will only need one of these Regents exams if the student is using another pathway towards graduation. See your counselor for details.]

Typical Social Studies Progressions

Note:

These are typical progressions in social studies used at WAJ; however, students may customize progressions to their desired Program of Study—pending administrative approval.



American Government (PS 101)

Credit: .5 (3 college credits)

Weighting: 4

Course Description

An analysis of the American political system, with emphasis on the Constitution. Topics include American conservative and liberal political traditions, political parties, and the organization and operation of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government. This course satisfies the Government requirement for graduation.

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Course Requirements

80% GPA in social studies content area

AP United States History

Credit: 1

Weighting: 5

Course Description

The AP program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and enduring understandings necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students will learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Students 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 an essay format and through classroom seminars.

Course Requirements

Prerequisite: Global II and teacher recommendation, 85% GPA in social studies

AP World History: Ancient (Grade 9)

Credit: 1

Weighting: 5

Course Description

In AP World History: Ancient, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from pre-history to 1200. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making

historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

Course Requirements

Prerequisite: 85% or above average in US History 8 and teacher recommendation

AP World History: Modern (Grade 10)

Credit: 1

Weighting: 5

Course Description

In AP World History: Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

Course Requirements

Prerequisite: 85% GPA in AP World: Ancient (Grade 9)

Contemporary Global Issues (PS 104)

Credit: .5 (3 college credits)

Weighting: 4

Course Description

Wars, revolutions, human rights, terrorism, natural and man-made disasters, international trade and economic issues impact the entire global community. This course is designed to acquaint the student with the tools and methods to analyze the historical, political, and industrial precursors leading up to these events. With this practical and theoretical foundation, students will be able to understand and engage in informed discussions about the important global issues in the coming decades.

Course Requirements

80% GPA in social studies content area

Economics

Credit: .5

Weighting: 0

Course Description

We live in a world in which we make important choices every day. The choices we make regarding how we will utilize the resources available to us is the foundation of economics. Understanding fundamental economic concepts will prove to assist you in making these very important choices during your lifetime. Some of the topics/ideas you will learn about in this course include but are not limited to: Personal Financial Management, Factors of Production, Opportunity Cost, Supply and Demand, and the American Economy.

Course Requirements

Global 1, Global II, US History

Global History & Geography I (Before 1750)

Credit: 1

Weighting: 0

Course Description

This course, the first half of the Regents' course, is designed to provide students with an understanding of the major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in world history and geography, from prehistory to approximately the First Global Age in the 18th Century. It prepares students to move into the second half of the Regents' course with a solid knowledge base of the traditions and history of the modern world.

Course Requirements

None

Global History & Geography II (1750-Present)

Credit: 1

Weighting: 0

Course Description

Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in World History and Geography and examine the broad sweep of history from a variety of perspectives. Major units of study include An Age of Revolution, A Half Century of Crisis and Achievement, the world since 1945, and Global Connections and Interactions. Major themes and concepts are History, Political Science, Geography, and Economics. The Global Studies Regents exam is taken at the conclusion of this course. Beginning June 2019, this exam will only cover content after 1750.

Course Requirements

Successful completion of Global History & Geography I

Introduction to Sociology (SO 101)

Credit: .5 (3 college credits)

Weighting: 4

Course Description

An introduction to and overview of the field of sociology. Gives students a basic working knowledge of the major institutions present in American society and their relationship to power, conflict, and social change.

Course Requirements

80% GPA

Macroeconomics (EC 101)

Credit: .5 (3 college credits)

Weighting: 4

Course Description

An analysis of industry structures: pure competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition (oligopoly), business costs and the determination of optimal production levels. An in- depth examination of important economic issues such as financial insecurity, the environment and energy policies and a discussion of alternative approaches to addressing these issues. Students will analyze information including that which is presented graphically, and use concepts such as externalities and cost-benefit analysis. This course satisfies the Economics requirement for graduation.

Course Requirements

80% GPA in social studies content area

Participation in Government

Credit: .5

Weighting: 0

Course Description

This course is one half of the senior social studies requirement for graduation. The course content is interdisciplinary, for it is drawn from areas beyond the defined social studies curriculum. It includes life experience beyond classroom and school. The curriculum is related to problems or issues addressed by students and where possible, real and substantive issues at local, state, national and global levels. The curriculum is in the form of intellectual processes or operations necessary to deal with data generated by the problems or issues addressed by students.

Course Requirements

Prerequisites: Global I, Global II, US History

Psychology (PY 101)

Credit: .5 (3 college credits)

Weighting: 4

Course Description

An overview of the scientific discipline of psychology, including some of the methods and basic concepts of the field and major aspects of human behavior, such as emotion, learning, conditioning, motivation, personality, and development.

Course Requirements

80% GPA

US History 1492-1865 (HI 103)

Credit: .5 (3 college credits)

Weighting: 4

Course Description

A survey course that begins with an overview of United States history from colonial times into the 21st century. The primary emphasis will focus on the development of a constitutional system as well as the social and economic events that helped shape early America. Topics include the Colonial period, American Revolution, the ratification of the Constitution, Jacksonian democracy, the forces that led to the development of the Civil War and the lingering impact of the war on contemporary America.

Course Requirements

80% GPA in the social studies content

US History 1865 – Present (HI 104)

Credit: .5 (3 college credits)

Weighting: 4

Course Description

A survey course that begins with an overview of United States history from colonial times into the 21st century. The primary emphasis will focus on the major forces that shaped the social, political and economic developments of post-Civil War America. Topics will include Reconstruction, westward expansion, the Industrial Revolution, immigration, the Great Depression, the world wars, and the emergence of the United States as a world power.

Course Requirements

80% GPA in the social studies content

US History & Government

Credit: 1

Weighting: 0

Course Description

Through the study of United States history and government from the 17th century to the present, students will be introduced to political, social, economic and cultural developments and interactions. The following topics and themes will be covered: Constitutional principles, institutions of government, foreign policy, economic systems and their political impact, immigration and diversity, citizenship, civil rights and liberties, reform movements, and historical significance of science and technology.

Course Requirements

Prerequisite: Global II

Local History

Credit: 1

Weighting: 0

Course Description

This course will focus on local history with an emphasis on Greene County, the larger Catskills and the Hudson Valley. Much of the course will be student driven and research-based allowing students to explore topics that are of interest to them using a rich array of primary and secondary sources. Topics the course may include: early settlement of local communities, development of transportation networks, the local tourism industry, and local economic development including agriculture and industry, and the role of the local community in larger state, national and international events. Course may also include: guest speakers, oral history projects, field trips to places of local historic interests, and presentations.

Course Requirements

None

Food History

Credit: .5

Weighting: 0

Course Description

This elective examines the origins, spread, and uses of food and beverages in history. In addition to the study of these commodities, students will have the opportunity to prepare native and modern dishes using the ingredients of study as a focus.

Course Requirements

None

The Civil War (HI 221)

Credit: .5 (3 college credits)

Weighting: 4

Course Description

This course is an in-depth study of the events leading up to the American Civil War and the military and political history of the war. It will also include a short look at the consequences of the war. Students will examine military and political objectives and strategies, evaluate different versions of the same events, and explore alternative resolutions to historical issues. This course will require reading of primary and secondary texts, critical thinking, round table-type classroom discussion, and persuasive writing.

Course Requirements

HI 103 or HI 104, or a score of 85 or above on the NYS Regents exam in American History