

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Course descriptions that are shaded are not being offered.
- Three credits of Social Studies are required for all Mason High School students.
 - 1 credit of U.S. History (or AP US History) is a specific requirement for graduation.
 - 1 credit of World History (or AP World History) is a specific requirement for graduation.
 - ½ credit of U.S. Civics (or AP U.S. Government & Politics) is a specific requirement for graduation.
 - ½ credit of Economics is a specific requirement for graduation.

Note: Students are encouraged to complete Civics and Economics prior to third trimester of their junior year so that they are better prepared for the MME test.

AP U.S. Government & Politics

3 trimesters

Grade Level: 10 - 12

Course # 3501
3502
3503

Prerequisite: B average in
Social Studies classes

This year long course is an introductory college level study of U.S. Government, including the Constitution, branches of government, political parties, and political issues. This course will prepare highly motivated students for college level social science courses with the possibility of earning college credit by taking the A.P. Exam and earning an acceptable score (based on criteria set by your chosen university).

AP U.S History

3 trimesters

Grade Level: 10 - 12

Course # 3504
3505
3506

Prerequisite: B average in
Social Studies classes

This year long course is an introductory college level study of the history of the United States, ranging from the Native American societies in the Americas before Columbus to the United States in the post-Cold War world. Students who complete this course will gain the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with important topics and issues in United States history. This course will prepare highly motivated students for college level social science courses with the possibility of earning college credit by taking the A.P. Exam and earning an acceptable score (based on criteria set by your chosen university).

AP World History

3 trimesters

Grade Level: 10 - 12

Course # 3507
3508
3509

Prerequisite: B average in
Social Studies classes

This year long course is an introductory college level study of World History, ranging from the development of civilization to the present. Students who successfully complete this course will gain a deeper understanding of the development of world cultures and their interactions. This course will prepare highly motivated students for college level social science courses with the possibility of earning college credit by taking the A.P. Exam and earning an acceptable score (based on criteria set by your chosen university).

Current Issues

1 trimester

Grade Level: 11 – 12

Prerequisite: None

Current Issues is a course designed to give students the background necessary to follow and understand many of the complex issues facing our society today on a social, political, and economic level. Class time will be divided between the following activities: (1) reading and discussing current events issues, (2) gathering information on a variety of topics using videos, magazine articles, and the class textbook, and (3) examining American films and documentaries addressing current issues in America. Some areas of study will include current issues in regard to Social Class in America, Minority Groups, Foreign Policy, Global Environment, Immigration, the Economy, and the Middle East.

Economics

1 trimester

Grade Level: 10 - 12

Prerequisite: None

The economics course consists of an overview of both Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. Students will study the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services while developing a better understanding of his/her role in the economy. The following economic concepts, as they relate to the individual, and the nation, will be studied: scarcity, opportunity cost, economic systems, supply, demand, competition and market structure, role of government, inflation, fiscal and monetary policy, unemployment and business cycles. Students will also be introduced to the following international economic concepts: absolute advantage, comparative advantage, exchange rates, and balance of trade.

Psychology

1 trimester

Grade Level: 11 - 12

Prerequisite: None

This course is intended to introduce to the student the general field of psychology. Study will consist of text material, lecture material, class discussion, supplemental handouts, group work, and AV materials.

The Holocaust & Other Modern Acts of Genocide

1 trimester

Grade Level: 11 – 12

Prerequisites: Must have earned a 70% (C-) or better in both U.S. History and World History

This class will explore the Jewish Holocaust in Europe during the 1930's and 1940's, in addition to various acts of genocide since World War II, specifically: Rwanda, Cambodia, Sudan, the Kurds, and Bosnia. In addition, students will explore the psychology of hate and prejudice.

The Impact of Sports on American History and Culture

1 trimester

Grade Level: 11 – 12

Prerequisites: U.S. History and World History

This course will examine the role of sports in American history from the mid nineteenth century through present day. The course will primarily focus on social issues and cultural changes throughout different eras of American history, and identify how sports often times illustrated such changes. There will be a special emphasis on issues of race, gender, religion, and social class. In addition to history lessons, the course will take an interdisciplinary approach and incorporate lessons in economics, sociology, psychology, geography, and civics when possible. Students can expect to read essays and primary source documents, examine media, independently research, and write essays. This course will be enjoyable for students who enjoy sports and history.

U.S. Civics
Course # 3301

1 trimester

Grade Level: 10 - 12
Prerequisite: None

A required course for graduation, students will examine the historical underpinnings of the U.S. republic and its constitutional principles. This course includes a study of the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of government, and the constitutional role and structure of state and local governments. The rights and responsibilities of an informed electorate are addressed throughout the course, and students will demonstrate learning through debates and presentations.

U.S. History
Course # 3101
3102

2 trimesters

Grade Level: 9
Prerequisite: None

U.S. History is a required two trimester course which studies America's history, with a brief review of early American history to 1890, and a thorough study of America from 1890 to the current issues of globalization and the shifting role of the United States on the world stage from 1980 to the present. The course will concentrate on major historical themes and examine particular eras. The primary goals of this class are for students to gain a broad understanding of post Civil War U.S. history and to select topics or areas of interest for more detailed study. Students will develop the skills necessary to research and present historical information, to write analytical essays on selected topics, and to participate constructively in discussion.

World History
Course # 3201
3202

2 trimesters

Grade Level: 10
Prerequisites: None

World History is a required two trimester course in which students study the history of the world, from the fall of the Roman Empire through the present day. Special emphasis will be placed upon the history of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, in addition to the development of Europe and the Americas. Additionally, students will explore specific geographic information about world regions and fundamental geographic concepts.