

Social Studies

The Johnson High School Social Studies Department offers courses to introduce students to the world around them, both locally and globally.

Freshmen must enroll in one of the following two courses:

World History 9

Course Number(s): H405101, H405102

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 9

This course will involve studying patterns of human behavior across time within the historical context of global society. Students will discover commonalities and differences among peoples from past to present. They will examine and evaluate evidence to understand the social, political, environmental, technological, economic, and spiritual factors of human development. The course will draw upon a number of historical periods (classical, Chinese, Middle Eastern, Russian civilizations, etc.) using chronological, thematic, and regional approaches.

Geography/World History Pre-AP (Honors)

Course Number(s): H432001, H432002

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: Grade level reading ability

Grade: 9

This course will involve studying patterns of human behavior across time within the historical context of global society. Students will research commonalities and differences among peoples from past to present. They will examine and evaluate evidence to understand the social, political, environmental, technological, economic, and spiritual factors of human development. The course will draw upon a sampling of historical periods (classical, Chinese, Middle Eastern, Russian civilizations, etc.) using chronological, thematic, and regional approaches. Students are expected to produce a high quality of written analysis and interpretation. Participation and class discussion are key elements of this class. Students will be required to complete one research paper in each quarter.

Note: This course is strongly recommended for all future Quest or Advanced Placement courses.

Sophomores must enroll in one of the following five courses:

Human Geography

Course Number(s): H402211, H402212

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 10-12

Using the thematic approach, Human Geography will focus on regions of the world. Students will apply geographic concepts such as population, agriculture, natural resource allocation and management, industry, political geography, cultural geography and organization to their lives. In addition, students will examine the impact of the physical environment on people and cultures. This course also fulfills the Minnesota State University System's entrance requirement.

Human Geography AP (Honors)

Course Number(s): H452211, H452212

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: Geography / World History Pre-AP

Grade: 10-12

This course is designed to have students learn and apply AP-level skills. Students who enter this course should have the critical thinking and study skills necessary to perform and succeed at an AP level. Students will learn to study efficiently, but critically, will read a large amount of written material, and will practice rigorous methods for understanding and learning facts, for creating and testing hypotheses, and for organizing, debating and evaluating concepts and theories. This course provides practice in researching and discussing global issues, helps students to recognize and understand typical patterns of processes and behaviors, helps them to understand and explain statistical data, charts, graphs, and geographical documents, and expects a high quality of written analysis and interpretation. Students will study the nature and perspectives of geography, population, migration, agriculture, economic development, cultural geography, political geography and urbanization. This course will offer the opportunity to complete the Minnesota Graduation Standard for Social Studies, Human Geography. This course also fulfills the Minnesota State University System's entrance requirement. Finally, this course will prepare students for the AP Human Geography exam. Students are expected to take the Geography AP test in May.

Global Concerns Geography

Course Number(s): H402261, H402262

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 10-12

We are moving into an era where countries are no longer isolated from each other. What issues are people around the world concerned about? What are causes and solutions to problems that exist on a global scale? Global Concerns Geography is a thematically taught geography course that focuses on global concerns and how governments, non-governmental agencies and world organizations such as the United Nations address issues of population, geo-politics, human rights and economics. Curriculum will partly be based on United Nations information, including participation in the Model U.N. program. The class is open to students of all academies grades 10-12. This course fulfills the Minnesota State University System's entrance requirement and the Minnesota State Standard: Social Studies, Geography.

Human Geography: Around the World in 90 Days

Course Number(s): H402251, H402252

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 10-12

Where have you been? Where would you like to go? This Geography course is centered on studying themes which give students the opportunity to study an entire issue versus just one place. Around the World in 90 Days focuses on how the travel and tourism industry affects the populations, cultures, economies and relationships of countries around the world. Students will also examine

areas of the world for cultural and physical sites that inspire interest and are world renowned. This course will address National Academy Foundation requirements for students who are part of NAF Academy of Travel and Tourism (Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation Academy). This course is also recommended for the National Academy of Finance (Business & Marketing Academy) students as it examines economics on a human and global scale. The class is open to students of all academies, grades 10-12. This course fulfills the Minnesota State University System's entrance requirement and the Minnesota State Standard: Social Studies, Geography.

Grade: 10-12

This two-quarter course will explore American history through seven major themes: American Character and Belief System, Immigrant Experience, Struggle for Equality (Women), Struggle for Equality (African American), Struggle for Equality (Native Americans, Chicano Studies, and Asian-Americans), Boom and Bust – Economic Development, Art, Architecture, Religion and Education, and War, Peace and responsibilities of Global Leadership. Student interest will dictate what order the themes are met.

Twin Cities Studies

Course Number(s): H403101, H403102

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 10-12

Students will evaluate the purpose, place and people characteristics of the Twin Cities Metropolitan area by looking through the lens of history, literature, geography and environmental issues. By analyzing distinct neighborhoods, students will get an in-depth look at the myths, perceptions and reality of the place we call home. By studying culture and landscape, the concept of location and place will be viewed through the eyes of the individual student with special attention given to the culture of the area. Come prepared with an open mind, good walking shoes, and a hearty appetite for your own backyard.

Juniors must enroll in one of the following three courses:

United States History

Course Number(s): H404101, H404102

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 10-12

U.S. History is a course designed to teach historical and contemporary views of people, places, events, and dates from multiple perspectives. Students will examine how these views have shaped the development of the United States of America from indigenous beginnings to its present status as a world influence. Students will also discern that many cultures have contributed and continue to contribute to this development.

United States History AP (Honors)

Course Number(s): H454101, H454102

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: Recommended: Geography / World History Pre-AP

Grade: 10-12

All Advanced Placements courses are conducted under the auspices of the College Board. This course is based upon the requirements of a college introductory US History course. Students will prepare for the AP Examination. The course goes beyond a traditional US History course to include methods found in college-level courses. A focus in AP history is examining historical issues from various viewpoints. This course places a heavy emphasis on reading, writing and developing test-taking skills. All students who register for this course are expected to take the AP exam in May.

American Themes

Course Number(s): H404141, H404142

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: None

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Note: Students are required to take one economics credit, one American government credit, and one World History credit before graduating. Typically, students take these classes Senior year.

Economics (AOF)

Course Number(s): H406111

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 10-12

This course is designed to introduce students to how individuals, households, businesses, and governments use scarce resources to satisfy unlimited wants and needs. Students will explore the four distinct areas of economic thought, which include fundamental economic problems and microeconomic, macroeconomic, and international economic skills.

World History 11 - 12

Course Number(s): H405104

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 11-12

This fast paced course will involve studying patterns of human behavior across time within the historical context of global society. Students will discover commonalities and differences among peoples from past to present. They will examine and evaluate evidence to understand the social, political, environmental, technological, economic, and spiritual factors of human development. The course will draw upon a number of historical periods (classical, Chinese, Middle Eastern, Russian civilizations, etc.) using chronological, thematic, and regional approaches.

Note: World History is a graduation requirement.

US Government 11 - 12

Course Number(s): H401401

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 11-12

U.S. Citizenship is a course designed to introduce students to U.S. Government, Constitutional law and the rights and responsibilities of function, contributing citizens. This course involves the story of the U.S. Constitution and its amendments, the structure of the U.S. Government, means by which citizens interact with the government, as well as rights that different citizens have worked to attain throughout different periods in this country's history.

Note: This class is intended for students who did not take the U.S. Citizenship class as freshmen

Elective Credit Classes Offered:

Note: These elective classes are offered every year.

America's Civil War

Course Number(s): H401301

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 9-12

America's Civil War will examine the causes, course, and outcomes of America's family tragedy, the Civil War. Among the topics discussed will be the failure of then pre-war political compromises, the existence of radical sectionalism, justifications for secession, the character of

the war, and the lingering implications of the nation's most dangerous internal dispute.

The American President

Course Number(s): H401201

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 9-12

This course will offer an overview the American Presidency. Topics include the selection process; the executive branch; and the relationship between the

President, the press, the Congress, the courts, and the public. Also covered are the powers, roles and responsibilities of the President. The president is the most visible and recognizable symbol of our federal government. In this class, we will look at how presidents attain the office; at the presidency as a political institution, including its interaction with other governmental structures; at the president's relationship with the media and the public; and we will look at the psychology and character of presidents.

European History AP (Honors)

Course Number(s): H455411

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: Geography / World History Pre-AP

Grade: 10-12

This is a college-level survey course that introduces students to the rich political, cultural, social, and intellectual heritage of Europe which covers the High Renaissance in Europe from approximately 1450 to the present. In addition to providing a factual narrative, students will work to understand the principal themes in modern European History, analyze historical evidence, and express that understanding and analysis in writing. Students enrolling in this course should be aware that AP classes are taught and graded at the college level and that they significantly exceed the demands and expectations for other college prep classes. The College Board and Saint Paul Public Schools provide highly motivated students the challenge and opportunity to earn college credit during their high school years. Students will be expected to take the AP European History Test in May.

Military History

Course Number(s): H401501

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 9-12

What is the attraction of war? What are the main causes of war? How important is war in shaping human affairs? What are the dynamics involved in battle? What motivates combatants? This course will present a basic introduction to main themes in military history and serves as an introduction to the concepts and problems involved in the study of military history. It also addresses the effect of war on human society and examines the significance of war in human culture. Although it examines war from prehistoric times to the present, the course is thematic rather than chronological.

Psychology

Course Number(s): H407301, H407302

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 10-12

This course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes. It introduces the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields. Topics covered include research methods, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning and memory, motivation and emotion, developmental psychology, theories of personality, and abnormal psychology. Students will use observation and theory to study human interaction, learning, or development, methods and techniques of primary research, and legal and ethical procedures related to research. Students will refine a topic into a research problem and will create a plan for data collection and for gathering and analyzing data.

Psychology AP (Honors)

Course Number(s): H457301, H457302

Length: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: Recommended: Geography / World History Pre-AP

Grade: 10-12

AP Psychology introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes. It introduces the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields. Topics covered include research methods, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning and memory, motivation and emotion, developmental psychology, theories of personality, and abnormal psychology. Students will use observation and theory to study human interaction, learning, or development, methods and techniques of primary research, and legal and ethical procedures related to research. Students will refine a topic into a research problem and will create a plan for data collection and for gathering and analyzing data. They will compare the findings to theories of human interaction, develop conclusions based on the findings, and identify implications for further study. The content and critical thinking and studying skills taught in this course are required in all upper level Advanced Placement courses. Students learn to study efficiently but critically, read a large amount of written material, practice rigorous methods for understanding and learning facts, creating and testing hypotheses, organizing, debating, and evaluating concepts and theories and explaining and using statistical data. Students will be expected to take the AP Test in Psychology.

Pox, Plague & Pestilence

Course Number(s): H405171

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 9-12

Plague, Pox and Pestilence is designed to introduce students to the effects that disease has had on the development of humanity. The course will involve the examination of the major medical challenges civilization has faced, the medical establishment's response and the lasting effect of the crisis. The class will deal with the title topics within a historical context. The students will examine the rise of the science of medicine from the ancient Egyptians through the modern miracles of today with special emphasis placed on the historical reasons for scientific advances. The class will include field trips to local medical sites and a number of guest speakers.

Quest Humanities: African American History

Course Number(s): H404501

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: Recommended: H431101 - Quest/Pre-AP U.S. Citizenship

Grade: 9-12

This course examines historical periods and events in African and African-American history from African background to Reconstruction, their role in the evolution of America's historical development, and their impact on African-Americans in the United States. Political, social, economic, and cultural aspects will be analyzed and evaluated. Special attention will be given to the conflict between slave and slaveholder, as well as the issues and philosophies surrounding that conflict.

Humanities Soccer

Course Number(s): H404291

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 9-12

Quest: Soccer is a one-quarter humanities course designed for students who wish to examine the art, literature and history of what Pele called "The Beautiful Game". Within the context of global soccer, the class will examine race, the advent of women's athletics and the effect of globalization. Universal yet particular, the source of an infinitely renewable supply of hope,

occasionally miraculous, and governed by simple rules that everyone can follow; soccer is the world's game. In an effort to understand it, the class will use a series of readings from famous writers as well as completing a complex group project. Skills necessary for success in this class include reading critically, discussion, working in groups and making oral presentations.

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Note: The following elective classes are offered every other year. They are offered in 2009-2010.

College in the Schools: Introduction to Political Science - The Challenge of Democracy (Honors)

Note: Alternate year class - available this year
Course Number(s): H491451, H491452
Length: 2 Quarters
Prerequisites: Top 20% of class; Teacher Recommendation; H404101 - U.S. History
Grade: 12

In this college course, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of American government and the political process at the national, state and local levels. We will examine the relationship between the American people and their political institutions with an emphasis on political culture, the electoral process, political parties, interest groups and political communication. Students will be expected to actively participate in class discussions.

College in the Schools Introduction to Political Science is a college course taught in high school; it is not a high school class. Students have more freedom than in other courses taught in high school- but they also have more responsibility for their own progress. Upon successful completion of this course, students receive four credits from the University of Minnesota.

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Note: The following elective classes are offered every other year. They are not offered until 2009-2010.

Age of Sail

Note: Alternate year class - available next year
Course Number(s): H410011
Length: 1 Quarter
Prerequisites: None
Grade: 9-12

The Age of Sail is a one-quarter elective course offered by the Arts, Communications and Humanities Academy focusing on that period of history between 1750 – 1815. Topics to be discussed in the course include the development of the Longitude Chronometer, global exploration, growth of the British Empire and the language and technology developed during this era that we use today. Students should be prepared to read and discuss material about how sail moved us into the modern world.

Political and Social Issues

Note: Alternate year class - available next year
Course Number(s): H401621
Length: 2 Quarters
Prerequisites: None
Grade: 10-12

This course is designed to teach the complexities of the dynamics of the political and social life of the United States. Specific focus areas may include constitutional issues; legal issues; civil liberties; human rights; workplace issues; issues of race, class and gender; globalism and technology, immigration and citizenship; and politics and elections. Students will examine these issues within the context of America's constitutional democracy. Students will demonstrate political and social skills through active participation.

Street Law

Note: Alternate year class - available this year
Course Number(s): H408231
Length: 1 Quarter
Prerequisites: None
Grade: 9-12

This course is an introduction to law and the criminal justice system in America. The structure of the criminal justice system will be studied in relation to the larger social and cultural context. Specific topics will be discussed in relation to the larger and social and cultural context. Specific topics will include criminal law and values, crimes against persons, law enforcement, courts, community corrections /prison systems and juvenile justice. Guest speakers will bring their expertise and knowledge to class discussions.

African American History Quest: The Civil Rights Movement

Note: Alternate year class - available next year
Course Number(s): H434551
Length: 1 Quarter
Prerequisites: None
Grade: 9-12

This course is designed to teach historical views of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Students will examine the different events and people who were instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement through the venue of politics, entertainment, sports, literature, and education. Students will also be given a brief overview of slavery to gain a better perspective of how and why the Civil Rights Movement developed. A research project will be required to complete the course successfully.

Quest Humanities: Baseball as America

Note: Alternate year class - available next year
Course Number(s): H404281
Length: 1 Quarter
Prerequisites: None
Grade: 9-12

Baseball is a one-quarter humanities course designed for students who wish to examine the art, literature and history of America's National Pastime. Within the context of baseball in this century, the class will examine labor and race relations in the United States as well as the advent of television, women's athletics and the shifting of population from the cities to the suburbs. The class will read the literature of baseball as well as completing a complex group project. Skills necessary for success in this

class include reading critically, discussion, working in groups and making oral presentations.

Sociology

Note: Alternate year class - available next year

Course Number(s): H407151

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 10-12

Sociology stresses the social contexts in which people live, how we choose friends, what we understand about the thoughts behaviors of the opposite sex, how inequalities shape our world and what social institutions shape us most. In this class, we will examine how relationships result from and sometimes change our social environment and ourselves. This course will emphasize making healthy individual decisions and how we can change the world through each person. This course will include a project on initiating social change.

Note: The following class is offered by the Social Studies Department as a general elective and does NOT count towards the required Social Studies credits necessary to satisfy graduation requirements.

Introduction to Criminal Justice (Honors)

Note: This classes give 3 semester credits at Metro State University.

Course Number(s): H448221

Length: 1 Quarter

Prerequisites: top 50% of class

Grade: 11-12

This is a Post-Secondary Option course taught in conjunction with Metro State University. As an introduction to the field of criminal justice, this course provides students with a brief but comprehensive overview of the criminal justice institutions in American society. Students learn about the role of the criminal justice system in maintaining social order. The course also examines the duties and functions of criminal justice practitioners, including police officers, prosecutors, judges, and correctional officials, from the initial violation of the criminal laws, to the punishment and release of convicted offenders.