

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### FRESHMEN

#### **SS 715      WORLD HISTORY**

Two Semester Course

The World History curriculum takes an approach to analyzing the growth of civilization based on regional development and cultural interaction across the centuries. The first semester focuses on the development of Western Civilization to the Age of Exploration with additional topics in African, Asian, Middle Eastern, and pre-Columbian American history. During the second semester students study the interaction of world cultures from the beginning of the sixteenth century to present day including the convergence of societies around the globe during the Age of Imperialism through the independence movements after World War II. Upon completion of World History, students will have acquired the academic skills of identifying important content in primary and secondary source readings, note-taking, presenting critical analyses as a result of individual and group projects, analyzing data from maps, graphs, and charts, and writing cogent essays. Students who demonstrate aptitude in such historical skills, and meet the GPA requirements, will be eligible to enroll in the Advanced Placement US History course in their sophomore year.

#### **SS 716 H      WORLD HISTORY H**

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: Placement by Department Chair based on placement exam scores.

This rigorous course focuses on the development of historical thinking skills such as analyzing and interpretation of evidence, comparison, contextualization, synthesis, causation, argumentation, and patterns of continuity and change over time. In comparison to the SS715, students are expected to possess proficiency in foundational historical skills upon enrollment. Students are expected to engage in self-guided reading, writing, and study. Topics will cover human civilizations around the globe from prehistory to the modern period, with an emphasis placed on patterns of connectivity and diffusion across societies. First semester covers the development of civilizations around the world up to the year 1800, while the second semester emphasizes the rapid social, political, and technological changes which have marked the last two centuries of human history. Students who complete this course will possess the ability to engage critically with primary and secondary source material, construct and support original historical arguments in speech and writing, and present critical analysis as a result of individual and group projects. Based on their performance and GPA in Honors World History, students can qualify for AP US History in their sophomore year.

## SOPHOMORES

### **SS 724      U.S. HISTORY - AMERICAN STUDIES**

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: World History SS 715 or World History H SS 716 H

This course is the U.S. History component of the American Studies course. The emphasis of the course is on active learning and creative explorations of the nation's past and present. Students will delve into themes such as: the American Dream and Nightmare, utopian visions, who "Americans" are and where they live, the expansion of social justice in American society, and the role of the U.S. in the world in times of war and peace. American Studies is a team-taught, interdisciplinary course studying literature and U.S. History in an integrated curriculum. The English and History classes are scheduled in consecutive periods. Students who take American Studies will earn one credit in English and one credit in Social Studies. Students must also register for English 2 U.S. Literature and Composition – American Studies (ES 121). Additional field trip fees may be required.

### **SS 725      U.S. HISTORY**

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: World History SS 715 or World History H SS 716 H

In order to understand the kind of nation which is the United States of America today and to become informed and active citizens, students in this course examine the "why" as well as the "what" of their history. In particular, they study the development of the democratic political system, the gathering of people and cultures from all over the world into this society, the transformation of its economy from agricultural to post-industrial, and its changing role in the world. Upon completion of U.S. History, students will demonstrate an understanding of the interplay among the political, economic and social factors which define this nation.

### **SS 728 AP    ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY**

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: 3.5 in World History SS 715 or World History H SS 716 H and English 1 ES 110.

Recommendation of the Department Chair.

The AP United States History course is a comprehensive and in-depth study of U.S. History. Students study the development of the democratic political system, the gathering of people and cultures from all over the world into this society, the transformation of its economy from agricultural to post-industrial, and its changing role in the world. Upon completion of AP United States History, students will demonstrate a deepened understanding of the interplay among the political, economic, and social factors which define this nation. Students in this course use college textbooks and primary source materials. They are required to complete summer reading and writing assignments. All students must take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students may earn up to six hours of college credit upon successful completion of the AP exam in this subject.

## SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS

All students at Saint Ignatius are required to earn 3 credits (3 years) in Social Studies. The third year requirement is one semester of Economics (SS 753/763 H) and a one-semester elective (.5 credit) or a full-year Advanced Placement course in junior or senior year. AP Psychology does not fulfill the Economics graduation requirement.

### Honors Electives Enrollment

Any student may choose to enroll in a social studies course elective for honors credit, as noted by an H. Enrollment in honors sections is done during the first few weeks in the semester. Taking a social studies course for honors credit includes extra work, projects, and assessments as outlined by the teacher in his/her course guidelines. The choice to enroll in an honors course should be carefully discerned by the student with guidance from his/her teachers and school counselor. The Social Studies Department recommends honors courses for students who have a 3.00 or higher average in all previous social studies courses.

The following elective Social Studies courses are offered every year:

<b>SS 729/SS 739 H</b>	Introduction to Sociology
<b>SS 730/SS 740 H</b>	Chicago History and Politics
<b>SS 745/SS 795 H</b>	African American Historical Perspective Until 1877
<b>SS 737/SS 747 H</b>	Introduction to Psychology
<b>SS 746/SS 796 H</b>	African American Historical Perspective Since 1863
<b>SS 753/SS 763 H</b>	Introduction to Economics
<b>SS 761/SS 781 H</b>	Ancient Greek History
<b>SS 762/SS 782 H</b>	History of Rome
<b>SS 738/SS 748 H</b>	Environmental History
<b>SS 777</b>	Social Justice through Service Learning
<b>SS 790/SS 785 H</b>	Ignatian Innovation Design Entrepreneurship
<b>SS 768 AP</b>	Advanced Placement Economics: Contemporary Macroeconomics
<b>SS 779 AP</b>	Advanced Placement Modern European History
<b>SS 786 AP</b>	Advanced Placement Psychology
<b>SS 787 APW</b>	Advanced Placement African American History (pilot)
<b>SS 798 AP</b>	Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics

### **SS 729      INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

**SS 739 H**      One Semester Course  
Juniors and Seniors

In order to prepare students to be global citizens, it is important to emphasize the ways in which the social world has been constructed. Why are people categorized into races, genders, and classes? How are these classifications created and maintained? What are the consequences of these labels for society and individuals? At the core of this class is the analysis of the causes and consequences of social change through a sociological framework. The course will challenge students to critically examine the world around them. Topics include: the evolution and social construction of race, the economic and political structures that support class divisions in American society and internationally, and the evolution of gender roles and inequalities that exist in our society. As part of the requirement of this course, students will engage directly with the community and complete a semester-long service project. Honors students are required to complete additional assignments. Additional field trip fees may be required.

**SS 730 CHICAGO HISTORY AND POLITICS**

**SS 740 H** One Semester Course  
Juniors and Seniors

The Chicago History and Politics course is designed to provide students with an understanding of Chicago's social and political history as well as a basic understanding of the political system of the City of Chicago and Cook County. To better understand the city's history, students examine: the major industries that shaped the city's early economy, the Great Fire, the architectural styles of the city's downtown area, the World's Fair, the city's culture and diverse neighborhoods, and the political history of the city. Field trips to various locations around the city enhance the students' learning of the coursework. Honors students are required to complete additional assignments. Additional field trip fees may be required.

**SS 737 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY**

**SS 747 H** One Semester Course  
Juniors and Seniors

This course is designed to stimulate interest in and expand knowledge of the field of psychology. The word "psychology" is derived from two terms-ology meaning "study" and psyche meaning "mind." In the "study of the mind," students examine various psychological phenomena from biobehavioral and sociobehavioral perspectives. Current issues in psychology such as: intelligence, development, perception, learning, abnormal behavior, language, and social behavior will be explored. This course requires both independent and interactive participation through group discussions, project activities, and individual assessments. Through dialogue, discussions, and interactions with others, this course offers students an opportunity for active intellectual and emotional growth, not only in learning about the topics of psychology, but in life as well. Honors students are required to complete additional assignments.

**SS 738 ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY**

**SS 748 H** One Semester Course  
Juniors and Seniors

Environmental history explores human interaction with the natural world. The principal goal of this Environmental History course is to deepen our understanding of how humans have been affected by the natural environment in the past, and also how they have affected that environment and with what results. To study the relationships between humans and the surrounding world today, we must try to understand how the interaction between the two has both varied and changed over time. Thus, this course will explore the push and pull of culture and nature over the centuries. Utilizing a global approach, the course will examine this interaction among diverse cultures (geographically and temporally), even to how they defined "nature" and the "environment" differently. Building through a series of inquiry questions and project-based learning, the course will engage students to apply lessons from the past to current events and debates surrounding climate change, conservation, environmental justice, energy and the economy. While the course will have an informal interdisciplinary connection to environmental science, its focus will be on deploying the Social Studies fields of history, anthropology, sociology and economics. Honors students are required to complete additional assignments.

**SS 745 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE UNTIL 1877****SS 795 H** One Semester Course

Juniors and Seniors

This one semester course is designed to examine United States history from the perspective of African Americans between the beginning of the 16th century to the end of Reconstruction in the United States. Students will critically consider the shortcomings of traditional representations of African Americans within the context of this history. In doing so, discussion and course work focuses on African Americans' agency, struggles and perseverance in political, social, and cultural arenas in the United States. Students will begin their study with the conception of civilization in North Africa. The course traces the history of the people of African ancestry in the Americas from West Africa, which was the primary source of slaves in the trafficking of Africans to the Americas, through the Civil War and Reconstruction. As discussion is a major component of this course, students from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to actively share ideas about race relations in the United States. Honors students are required to complete additional assignments.

**SS 746 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE SINCE 1863****SS 796 H** One Semester Course

Juniors and Seniors

This one semester course is designed to examine United States history from the perspective of African Americans from the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln to contemporary day. Using a thematic approach, students critically consider the shortcomings of traditional representations of African Americans within the context of this history. Discussions and coursework focuses on African Americans' agency, struggles and perseverance in political, social and cultural arenas in the United States. Students begin with an overview of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Reconstruction Era and trace the African American experience throughout the 20th century. As discussion is a major component, students from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to actively share ideas about race relations in the United States. Honors students are required to complete additional assignments.

**SS 753 INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS****SS 763 H** One Semester Course

Juniors and Seniors

The aim of the course is to develop "economic literacy" and to give students a framework by which to understand and interpret current economic changes and events, especially their impact on the United States economy. Both domestic and international economic issues are studied. Understanding supply and demand and the concept of economic scarcity is the first basic tool towards understanding what these changes are and how they affect economic choices and decisions of individuals, businesses, and the government. An emphasis on current events, especially those that affect economic decisions, is seen in numerous class discussions. To achieve these aims, students use current newspaper articles, magazines, and a standard economics textbook to guide them through basic theoretical interpretations of current economic issues. Some time will be spent on: the principles of investing, the budget deficit, capitalism, the economics of current social problems, unemployment, fiscal and monetary policy and how the economy relates to the student in today's world. Honors students are required to complete additional assignments. Additional field trip fees may be required.

**SS 761      ANCIENT GREEK HISTORY****SS 781 H**      One Semester Course (First semester only)

Juniors and Seniors

The course begins with a brief survey of ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, and other Near Eastern civilizations, culminating in a field trip to the Oriental Institute Museum. Subsequent units focus on the proto-Greek civilizations of the Minoans and the Mycenaeans and their relationship to the Trojan War. Homer's Iliad is read for its historical and cultural perspectives on Greek history. The course continues with the rise of the Greek city-state, with an emphasis on the contrasting development of the Athenian empire in its wake. Special emphasis is given to the development of democracy and the cultural achievements of the Greeks in Athens under the leadership of Pericles. It then turns to the Peloponnesian wars and the disastrous results of the conflict between Athens and Sparta that ended with Athens' defeat and the death of Socrates. The course concludes with a study of the life and conquests of Alexander the Great and a discussion of the political and cultural consequences these had on the Greek world. Students are encouraged to register for SS762/SS 782 H History of Rome in the same academic year. Honors students will be required to complete additional assignments. Additional field trip fees may be required.

**SS 762      HISTORY OF ROME****SS 782 H**      One Semester Course (Second semester only)

Juniors and Seniors

The course begins with a survey of the Etruscans, and their cultural influence on the development of Rome in the 7th century B.C. Through examination of primary sources and legendary stories, the course looks at Rome's development from a small city-state ruled by kings to the formation of the Republic and the extension of Rome's empire throughout the Mediterranean. Special attention is given to the late Republic, dominated by Pompey, Cicero and Caesar, as well as the establishment of the Principate under Augustus. Vergil's Aeneid will be read for its historical and cultural perspective on Roman history. The course concludes with a survey of the imperial period with emphasis on the major emperors through Marcus Aurelius as well as Constantine and his acceptance of Christianity as the state religion. The course ends with a discussion of the collapse of Rome in 476 A.D. and the consequences it held for the development of Western European history. Students are encouraged to register for SS 761/781H Ancient Greek History in the same academic year. Honors students are required to complete additional assignments. Additional field trip fees may be required.

**SS 777      SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH SERVICE LEARNING**

Two Semester Course

Seniors

This double-period course combines the fourth year Religious Studies curriculum with a service learning component. Three days of the 8-day school cycle will consist of double-period classroom instruction and three days will be spent at service sites. Students will earn one elective credit in Social Studies and one credit in Theology. Students will review and synthesize material from their social interactions and service learning work in a Catholic context. Through this study, students will see the integral relationship between faith and justice through direct service involvement within the community. Significant personal reflection writing will be required. Students must also register for Discipleship and Social Justice TH 859.

**SS 790 IGNATIAN INNOVATIVE DESIGN ENTREPRENEURSHIP****SS 785 H** Two Semester Course

Juniors and Seniors

This class offers students an authentic entrepreneurship experience. Throughout the program, students ideate, develop, and iterate their own product or service startup in an attempt to gain investment funds in a final shark-tank style pitch event. Real entrepreneurs and business experts serve as volunteer coaches and mentors guiding student teams through the processes of developing hypotheses about a business concept, testing those hypotheses, adapting, and continually learning and improving. This cycle of experimentation is combined with foundational business content such as marketing and finance. The businesses students build are real - they are not business cases or simulated experiences - which means students experience mistakes, take risks, and learn to pivot based on market needs. Aligned with the National Consortium of Entrepreneurship standards, the Common Core Standards for Speaking and Listening, and the 21st Century Learning and Innovation Skills standards. The program provides a unique and powerful entrepreneurship experience. Honors students will complete additional assignments.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT SOCIAL STUDIES FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS**

All students must take the Advanced Placement Exam and may earn three to six hours of college credit upon successful completion of the AP exam.

### **SS 768 AP    ADVANCED PLACEMENT ECONOMICS: CONTEMPORARY MACROECONOMICS**

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA in Social Studies, Math, and English. Recommendation by the Social Studies Department Chair.

Today nations around the world face many economic challenges. The United States is no exception. This course will provide students with a better understanding of the economic problems that trouble our world and in particular the United States. Students will be introduced to the tools and models used by economists to analyze these issues. The course will also explain why businesses, households and the government play such an important role in either stabilizing or destabilizing the economy. In addition, students will explore the interconnectedness of the American economy with the rest of the world. Since not all economists think alike on all issues, opposing viewpoints among economists will also be investigated. Research projects are required along with a mastery of the concepts and theories that align with an introductory college Macroeconomics course. All students must take the Advanced Placement examination and may earn three hours of college credit upon successful completion of the AP exam.

### **SS 779 AP    ADVANCED PLACEMENT MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY**

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA in Social Studies and English. Recommendation by the Social Studies Department Chair.

The emphasis throughout the course is on independent research, use of sources, and written expression. Students study the political, religious, social, and economic changes which characterize modern times, including the rise of the nation-state, rationalism, capitalism, nationalism, revolution, imperialism, socialism, and industrialization. The first semester covers the era from the Renaissance and Reformation to the French Revolution. The second semester continues from that point to contemporary times. Other areas of the world, such as Africa, Asia, and America will be seen only as they pertain to European affairs. All students must take the Advanced Placement examination and may earn six hours of college credit upon successful completion of the AP exam.

### **SS 786 AP    ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY**

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA in Social Studies and English. Recommendation by the Social Studies Department Chair.

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings. In this college level course, students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. These subfields include biological, behavioral, cognitive, developmental, social/cultural, psychodynamic, and abnormal areas of study. Students will also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Supplementary readings will accompany the main textbook. All students must take the Advanced Placement examination and may earn three hours of college credit upon successful completion of the AP exam.

**SS 787 APW AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY - PILOT AP**

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA in Social Studies and English. Recommendation by the Social Studies Department Chair. Enrollment in African American Literature is strongly encouraged.

Advanced Placement pilot course, students will examine African American themes, and movements in order to understand the significance of the African American experience and why it is integral to understanding the world, its people, and ourselves. Students will study four thematic units that are each organized chronologically. The breadth of study allows students to investigate subjects encompassing the kingdoms of West Africa to present day accomplishments and challenges of African Americans. Through an in-depth analysis of primary source documents, students will connect the larger implications of said history on individual lives and how this history has impacted culture, intellectual movements, and identity over time. Students will learn methods of comprehension and analysis of events and primary documents, and critical literary theory in order to problem solve, conduct sound research, and participate in dialectical discussions to gain insight as to why the African American experience is essential to understanding who America is today. Enrollment in African American Literature is strongly encouraged, although not required. This course will be weighted as an AP level course (pilot year), but no actual AP credit will be available.

**SS 798 AP ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA in Social Studies and English. Recommendation by the Social Studies Department Chair.

The AP Comparative Government course examines in-depth the political systems of democratic, communist, and less developed countries through the study of Great Britain, Iran, Nigeria, the former Soviet Union/Russia, China, and Mexico. An introduction to the concepts of comparative politics and economics will be provided before studying the various countries. The following are examples of concepts that will be covered for each country in order to develop a proper basis for comparison: historical background, social cleavages, political culture, political framework, political participation, political leadership, and political change. Special attention will be paid to developing analytical and comparative skills as well as to improving writing ability. All students must take the Advanced Placement examination and may earn three hours of college credit upon successful completion of the AP exam.