

# **Niagara Falls High School** **Social Studies Course Descriptions**

## **GLOBAL STUDIES 9** SOC130 – 1.0 credit

The Global History and Geography course is divided into two years and is designed to focus on the five social studies standards, common themes that recur across time and place, and eight historical units. This course examines the development of World History in a variety of regions and civilizations. It considers the major historical eras from 4000 B.C. to around 1750 A.D. There is a thorough analysis of the methodology of historical study. There is a local assessment in June that mirrors the New York State Regents examination that students will be required to take and pass in June of their sophomore year.

## **GLOBAL STUDIES 9AC** SOC140 – 1.0 credit

This is a two-year course that encompasses the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade NYS Global History and Geography course that is a comprehensive, intensified study of World History. It will cover all the material of the Global History and Geography course at a level that will prepare the students for the required NYS World History and Geography exam at the end of grade 10.

Topics include the West, East Asian, Indian, Middle Eastern, Eastern European, African, and Latin American civilizations so as to achieve a worldwide perspective from 4000 B.C. to 1700 A.D. This course will endeavor to reach balance between the examinations of individual societies, while giving attention to the larger interactions across regional boundaries. The students in this course will gain a perspective on the dynamics of events and patterns and an enhanced understanding of the diverse societies around the globe that have helped shape our future.

## **GLOBAL STUDIES 10** SOC230 – 1.0 credit

This course is a continuation of Global History 1. This course examines the major historical trends during the period 1750 A.D. to the present. Considerable emphasis is given to current events as they relate to the historical patterns of the last two centuries. Much of the course work will focus the student's attention on the level of reading and style of writing necessary for successful completion of the New York State Regents exam in Global History and Geography.

## **GLOBAL STUDIES 10AC** SOC240 – 1.0 credit

This course is a continuation of Global History 1. This course examines the major historical trends during the period 1750 A.D. to the present. Considerable emphasis is given to current events as they relate to the historical patterns of the last two centuries. Much of the course work will focus the student's attention on the level of reading and style of writing necessary for successful completion of the New York State Regents exam in Global History and Geography. Students in this class will encounter a higher level of rigor to earn AC designation.

**AP GLOBAL STUDIES 10**  
SOC250 – 1.0

This second year of the course examines the development of world history in a variety of regions and civilizations. It considers the major historical eras from 4000 B.C. to 1750 A.D. There will be a thorough analysis of the methodology of historical study. In addition, the student will take an **Advanced Placement examination in May and the New York State Regents examination in June.**

**US HISTORY 11**  
SOC330 – 1.0 credit

Students enrolled in this course will study United States History with focus on America's emerging role as a leader in world politics. The course will also offer an economic overview from a historical perspective and firm commitment to the role of current events in shaping past, present and future historical trends. Much of the course work will focus the student's attention on the level of reading and style of writing necessary for successful completion of the N.Y. State Regents exam in U.S. History and Government.

**AP US HISTORY 11/NUSTEP HIS199**  
SOC350 – 1.0 credit

The Advance Placement Program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge 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 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. An Advanced Placement United States History course should thus 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 essay format. **NUSTEP credit possible; registration will occur in September through Niagara University.**

**Students will be prepared for the required AP and NYS Regents U.S. History and Government examinations.**

**GOVERNMENT & ECONOMICS**  
SOC430 – 1.0 credit

The Government portion of this course aims to provide students with opportunities to become engaged in the political process by acquiring the knowledge and practicing skills necessary for active citizenship. Content specifications are not included so that the course can adapt to present local, national, and global circumstances, allowing teachers to select flexibility from current events to illuminate key ideas and conceptual understandings. Participation in government and in our communities is fundamental to the success of American democracy.

The Economics portion of this course (Economics, the Enterprise System and Finance) examines the principles of the United States free market economy in global context. Students will examine their individual responsibility for managing their personal finances. Students will analyze the role of supply and demand in determining the prices individuals and businesses face in the product and factor markets, and the global nature of these markets. Students will study changes to the workforce in the United States, and the role of entrepreneurs in our economy, as well as the effects of globalization. Students will explore the challenges facing the United States free market economy in a global environment and various policy-making opportunities available to address these challenges. A minimum of five hours of community service per ten-week grading period are expected.

**STREET LAW**  
SOC431 – 1.0 credit

An introduction to American law and legal institutions as a part of government. The course will survey generally the sources and functions of law as a mediator between the individual and the society of government; and between the various orders of society: political, economic, and social. The course will examine, in general terms, the various kinds of law — civil, environmental, criminal, constitutional, etc. — focusing on selected problems in these areas to determine the capacity and limitations of law and legal processes to deal with social problems. (Concentration: American political system.)

**HUMAN UNDERSTANDING**  
SOC432 – 1.0 credit

The Human Understanding course of study is designed to provide a topical overview to the myriad aspects of psychology today. Such items as personality, behavioral tendencies, human development and learning are among the major themes to be studied.

The student will become familiar with group trends and theories of famous sociologists. They will also become familiar with minority, religious and family influences on social movements.

**LOCAL HISTORY**  
SOC433 – 1.0 credit

In this course, students will explore the history, landmarks, and culture of this area from its earliest people to the present day. In addition to our natural wonder, Niagara has been home to Native Americans, early Explorers, battles of the War of 1812, International border with Canada, terminus of the Erie Canal, Legends and Daredevils, Underground Railroad stops to freedom, modern Electricity, Immigrants from all over the world, key industrial and chemical Aerospace and Defense initiatives, the Manhattan Project, a proposed site of the United Nations, Rosie the Riveters, the Love Canal disaster, and so much more. Course emphasis will be on developing students' historical research, analysis and writing skills.

## **AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS 12/ NUSTEP POL 101**

SOC450 – 1.0 credit

Advanced Placement (AP) American Government gives students an analytical perspective on government and politics by studying the basic foundation and general concepts of the U.S. Government. A detailed study of the various institutions of the American political systems along with the groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics will look closely at the political party system, interest groups, mass media, public policy, civil rights and civil liberties and institutions of our national government including Congress, the Presidency, the bureaucracy, and the federal courts. This course will prepare students to take the AP U.S. Government and Politics exam in May; for which students may earn college credit.

NUSTEP credit possible – registration will occur in September through Niagara University.

### **General Expectations**

We will cover a considerable amount of material, so students are expected to be highly self-motivated, becoming learners both IN and OUT of the classroom. This includes readings from the text as well as supplemental readings, including primary source materials and contemporary news analysis. This course provides students with practice in analyzing and interpreting data and relationships in U.S. government and politics, as well as other information relevant to U.S. Government. Finally, students will be required to answer analytical and interpretive free-response questions on a frequent basis.

## **AP PSYCHOLOGY**

SOC452 – 1.0 credit

This course introduces students to psychology as the science of behavior and mind, and serves as a foundation for upper level courses. As a science, psychology attempts to answer questions using experimental and observational research methods and statistical analyses of objectively observable data. The course surveys the major content areas of psychology including behavioral neuroscience, cognitive psychology and learning, developmental psychology, social and personality psychology, and abnormal psychology.