

Niagara Falls High School

Social Studies Course Descriptions

GLOBAL HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY I (9th Grade)

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, and common enduring issues 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.

GLOBAL HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY II (9th Grade AC)

SOC240 – 1.0 credit

This course is a continuation of Global History I. 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. 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 9.

GLOBAL HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY II (10th Grade)

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.

AP WORLD HISTORY: MODERN

SOC255 – 1.0 credit

AP World History is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college or university world history course. In AP World History students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes of the historical periods from approximately 1200 CE to the Present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; making historical comparisons; utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time; and developing historical arguments. The course provides five themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction between humans and the environment; development and interaction of cultures; state building, expansion, and conflict; creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems; and development and transformation of social structures.

Students will take AP World: Modern College Board Exam in May.

Prerequisite: Required AC 9th Grade Global Studies II

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.

US HISTORY
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. **NUSTEP credit possible for students in grades 11 or 12.**

AP US HISTORY (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 available; 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.

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.

PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT
SOC430 – 0.5 credit

The Government 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.

STREET LAW
SOC431 – 1.0 credit

Street Law is yearlong social studies elective that serves as an introductory course to law and legal systems in the United States. Units will include... Introduction to Law, Criminal Law, the Criminal Justice Process Civil Law (Torts, Contracts and Family Law) Like any introductory course, Street Law is a survey. We will touch on broad and specific legal topics to give students a better understanding of law and how it affects them in REAL LIFE. We will use case studies, group discussion / debate, guest speakers and mock trials throughout the course. If you are interested in a career in Law, Law Enforcement, or just

want to know more about our criminal and civil law systems this is the class for you.

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SOC432 – 1.0 credit

This course 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 – 0.5 credit

For the first half of the year, students will explore the history, landmarks, and culture of Niagara Falls and Western New York from its earliest people to the present day. In addition to our natural wonder, Niagara has been home to Native Americans, early Explorers and the American Frontier, battles of the War of 1812, International border with Canada, terminus of the Erie Canal, Legends and Daredevils, Underground Railroad stops to freedom, modern Industrial growth and development of 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' individual interests, historical research, analysis and writing skills.

HUMAN RIGHTS & GENOCIDE STUDIES

SOC434 – 1.0 credit

This course will examine the occurrence of genocide and the development of human rights throughout history. Students will study particular instances of genocide from the Holocaust to the most recent events in Syria. A major purpose of the case study approach will be to explore the causes of genocide in the past as well as the actions that can be taken to prevent genocide in the future. The course will also examine the people, ideas, and events that furthered the expansion of human rights. As such, the Genocide and Human Rights elective is designed to not only understand humanity's greatest failures but to also celebrate its greatest successes.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

SOC435 – 0.5 credit

For the second half of the year, students will explore the history, experience and culture(s) of African-Americans from arrival in the Americas to the present day United States. African American Studies offers the opportunity for study, research, and community involvement in African American Studies and enables students to explore cultural, literary, historical, socioeconomic and other issues affecting African Americans. A close examination of reform movements from Abolition to Civil Rights to the present day Black Lives Matter Movement will take place. Course emphasis will be on developing students' historical research, analysis and writing skills.

ECONOMICS

SOC436 – 0.5 credit

The Economics 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.

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS (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 available – 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.

COLLEGE PSYCHOLOGY

SOC502 – 1.0 credit

The course will cover the major topics addressed by Psychology, as well as the diverse perspectives with which psychologists study people. By the end of the course, students will be able to discuss the ways in which Psychology has led to better understanding of human development, cognition, motivation, personality, and social thought and behavior, among other topics. Students will also be able to think critically about major debates that still rage within psychology.

The course is taught together with a professor from Bryant & Stratton College and all students will receive 3 college credits for Psychology 101 upon successful completion of the course and a final research paper and project.