

**COURSE TITLE:** American History

**COURSE LENGTH:** Full Year

**GRADE LEVEL:** 9

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** This history course covers the period just after the Civil War to the present. Coverage includes discussion and analysis of selected historical events and relevant current events.

**MODE OF PRESENTATION:** Reading and analysis of primary and secondary documents from the time periods in question and today, lecture and note taking, visual aids.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:** A point system including test scores, in-class assignments, and discussion.

**STUDENT SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED:**

1. Analysis of events important to U. S. History.
2. Awareness of current events as extensions of the past.
3. Develop the skills necessary to produce accurate answers with source identification.
4. Reading comprehension.
5. Understand the importance of diverse ideas to include the ability to discuss and disagree in a civil manner.

**COURSE TITLE:** World History

**COURSE LENGTH:** Full Year

**PREREQUISITE:** None

**GRADE LEVEL:** 10

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Students will develop an understanding that a study of world cultures in a historical context can illustrate both the diversity and similarity of cultures throughout history and can show how such cultural difference and resemblance are relevant to students today.

**MODE OF PRESENTATION:** Primarily lecture and class discussions. Also involve current events through the media and internet.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:** Point system based on tests, reading quizzes, worksheets/handouts, current events, and class projects.

**STUDENT SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED:**

1. Develop historical empathy.
2. Understand time and chronology.
3. Develop constructive values and attitudes about people, situations, ideas, and institutions.

4. Analyze historical evidence.
5. Evaluate historical events through research.

**COURSE TITLE:** U. S. Government

**COURSE LENGTH:** One Semester

**PREREQUISITE:** World History, American History to 1877

**GRADE LEVEL:** 11 - 12

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** This course is an overview of the American Federal system of government to include it's sources, purpose, and structure. (Attendance of either a city council meeting or school board meeting is required for course completion)

**MODE OF PRESENTATION:** Reading and analysis of primary and secondary documents, lecture, note taking, visual aids.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:** A point system including test scores, in-class assignments, and discussion.

**STUDENT SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED:**

1. Understanding of the Declaration of Independence and its influence on the foundation of America's political mind.
2. Understanding of the political theory of the Constitution.
3. The basic structure and function of the Federal Government's branches.
4. The ability to recognize and understand propaganda, fallacies in arguments, and the need for peaceful dialogue within the body politic.

**COURSE TITLE:** Economics

**COURSE LENGTH:** One Semester

**PREREQUISITE:** World History, American History

**GRADE LEVEL:** 11, 12

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** A mixture of theory, practical economics with an emphasis on the individual's place in our economic world system and the infusion of financial literacy.

**MODE OF PRESENTATION:** Lecture, class discussion, internet projects, and real-life forms and procedures.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:** A point system.

**STUDENT SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED:**

1. Develop an understanding of basic economic concepts.

2. Identify characteristics of other economic systems.
3. Apply theories to practical economics.
4. Differentiate between microeconomics and macroeconomics.
5. Infuse financial literacy.

**COURSE TITLE:**       **Current Issues**

**COURSE LENGTH:**   One Semester

**PREREQUISITE:**     American History - 1877 to the Present, World History

**GRADE LEVEL:**     11, 12

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The students will be exposed to important and sometimes controversial topics germane to current culture both local and international in scope.

**MODE OF PRESENTATION:** Primary and secondary documents, discussion, research.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:** A point system including test scores, in-class assignments, discussion, and class participation.

**STUDENT SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED:**

1. A greater understanding of issues currently facing people on local, national and global scales.
2. The importance of cause and effect.
3. Develop skills in identifying reliable sources.
4. Students will learn to appreciate the interconnectedness of cultures and regions.

**COURSE TITLE:**       **Psychology**

**COURSE LENGTH:**   One Semester

**PREREQUISITE:**     World History, American History

**GRADE LEVEL:**     11, 12

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** This course involves exposure to the purpose and origins of Psychology, general research methods of behavioral science, and selected topics such as mental health are studied from the psychological perspective.

**MODE OF PRESENTATION** Reading and analysis of primary and secondary documents, lecture and note taking, visual aids.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:** A point system including test and quizzes, in-class assignments, and discussion.

**STUDENT SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED:**

1. The scope of modern psychology.
2. Application of behavioral science research methods.

3. An appreciation of psychology's contributions to mental health, memory, learning and human development.

**COURSE TITLE:**       **Sociology**

**COURSE LENGTH:**   One Semester

**PREREQUISITE:**     American History, World History

**GRADE LEVEL:**     11, 12

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** This course involves exposure to the purpose and origins of Sociology, general research methods of behavioral science, and selected topics such as culture and family are studied from the Sociological Perspective.

**MODE OF PRESENTATION:** Reading and analysis of primary and secondary documents, lecture and note taking, visual aids.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:** A point system including test scores, in-class assignments, and discussion.

**STUDENT SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED:**

1. Develop an understanding of society and its culture.
2. Application of behavioral science research methods.
3. An appreciation of sociology's contributions to understanding culture, family, sexism, and ageism.

**COURSE TITLE:**   **Explore Iowa**

**COURSE LENGTH:**       One Semester

**PREREQUISITE:**       None

**GRADE LEVEL:**       11-12

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Students will be exposed to the natural world Iowa has to offer: beautiful landforms, diverse climate, its vibrant economy and a fascinating history. An important characteristic of this class will be its interactive and hands on exposure to the natural environment combined with multiple academic disciplines. For example, after receiving instruction on the use of maps and compasses, students will be complete a land navigation course located in the heart of the Loess Hills in Western Iowa. Another such example is our exploration of the Maquoketa Caves in Eastern Iowa and understanding their use by early man and how the current interaction of recreational use, fungus and hibernating bats have created a dilemma for its future use. Field trip participation is a requirement of the class.

**MODE OF PRESENTATION:** Lectures, research papers, create presentations, field trips

**DISCLAIMER:** Students must be willing to sweat, be bitten by various bugs and mosquitos, fall down, get muddy, shiver, step in cow pies, sleep outside under the stars and . . .

**GRADING PROCEDURE:** A point system including tests, quizzes, projects, homework assignments, participation and reflection in off-campus activities.

**STUDENT SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED:**

1. Research and presentation skills
2. Outdoor awareness
3. Expansion of physical and emotional limits

**Course Title:**                **The Good Life!**

**Course Length:**           **Semester**

**Prerequisite:**             **None**

**Grade Level:**             **11 – 12**

**General Description:** The practice, science, and myths behind leading a rewarding and meaningful life. This class explores very doable, practical tools, and methods that assist us in creating a well lived human experience. In addition, we'll expose some of the most frustrating and widespread untruths about what it means to be happy.

**Mode of Presentation:** Format will include classroom lecture materials, group discussion, class time dedicated to practicing concepts and strategies, and self-directed rewiring practices.

**Grading Procedure:** A point system.

**Student Skills, Knowledge to be Gained:**

1. *Self-Awareness*
2. *Self-Management*
3. *Relationship Skills*
4. *Responsible Decision-Making*