

SOCIAL STUDIES

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The social sciences are the organized bodies of knowledge dealing with the form and content of human relationships. A careful study of American cultures, past and present, is necessary to help students understand the world they live in and to plan effectively for the future. Understanding the American heritage and way of life is essential to effective citizenship. Great strides in the social sciences and humanities in general must be made to improve human relationships if humanity is to survive in the age of science.

In this technological society automation and cybernation are moving into many of the vocational fields. In this kind of world the professional and service occupations grow because one must always know how to effectively deal with people.

Some areas where social studies would be most helpful are law, teaching, personal work, civil service, industrial relations, journalism, foreign service, social work, politics, public administration, transportation, and private business.

Graduation requirement:

Class of 2010	US History or American Heritage, Government, Economics
Class of 2011 and beyond	World Cultures, US History or American Heritage, Government, Economics

World Cultures – Grade 9

Full Year Requirement

World Cultures is a course designed to provide one with a greater understanding of other peoples and what is happening in the world today by looking at the geography, culture, current events, and history of the world. This class will look at the cultures of the world. One should come away with a greater understanding of people from other cultures and conflicts in the world today. Class activities include: discussion, reading, writing, individual projects, group projects, some use of computer, and cultural experiences

Western Civilization - Grades 10-11-12

1st Semester, 2nd Semester, or Full Year *Elective*

Western Civilization applies an interdisciplinary approach to the study of western cultural traditions, frequently using a chronological framework. Course content includes a survey of the major developments and contributors in art and architecture, literature, religion and philosophy, and culture. Intellectual and political movements will also be included.

American Heritage - Grade 11

Combination US History/English III/ Two-period block/ Full Year

American Heritage is a course that combines the study of the history and literature of America and traces its development from 1600 to the present. This course satisfies the junior requirements of English III and American History and is taught in a two-period block of time. While the curriculum is consistent with these two classes, the design of American Heritage is focused on how the historical, social, cultural, and philosophical aspects of American life are reflected in its literature.

The course includes project-oriented assignments stressing research, composition skills, critical thinking, literary analysis, and the awareness that the lives of men/women are reflected in their arts. Special focus, at times, then, is directed to art, music, dance, and other study not usually found in the traditional approach to teaching English and history separately.

OR

Modern U.S. History - Grade 11

Full Year Requirement

United States History is designed to complement the eighth grade U.S. history course taught at the middle school level. The course will begin with an in-depth study of America in the Civil War era and proceed, in chronological order, to the present. Major units of study include: the Progressive Era, World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Depression Years, World War II, the Cold War Era, the Turbulent 1960's and 1970's, and the Decade of the 80's. Students should, from this study, begin to gain added perspective toward the future.

In this history course students will study political, cultural, social, and intellectual events, which collectively have formed the history of the United States. Students will be expected to analyze materials and raise questions in class. Grading will be based on a combination of tests, quizzes, daily work, and written essays.

American Government - Grade 12

Semester Requirement/American National Government [POL 111]

This class is offered as a Dual Credit class through ICCC or for HS credit only.

Prerequisite for Dual Credit version: Asset Reading score of 40 or above

This survey course introduces the general principles, policies, and problems of the national government in the United States. Fundamentals of American democracy; constitutionalism; the nature of federalism; the rights and duties of citizens; the institutions and processes of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government; the role of public opinion and the media; and the participation of interest groups, social movements, and political parties in the U.S. political system are emphasized. Grading will be based upon a collection of tests, quizzes, daily work, written essays, and a final project. The dual credit version requires more reading and writing than the HS credit only version.

Economics - Grade 12

Semester Requirement

Economics is the study of how the goods and services we want get produced and how they are distributed among us. The course will help students to understand economic events that occur everyday and prepare one to make informed economic decisions. Grading will be based on tests, quizzes, daily work, class participation, economic article reviews, a stock project, financial plan, budget plan activity, and business simulation.

General Psychology - Grades 11-12

Semester Elective/Dual credit with ICCC, Introduction to Psychology [PSY 111]

Prerequisite: Guidance Approval

This course includes the tools for the study of psychology, basic psychological processes, personality and social behavior, contemporary knowledge of motives, intelligence, learning and emphasis on the language of modern psychology.

Included in this course are written essays, quizzes, tests, and a comprehensive final exam.

Introduction to Sociology - Grades 11-12

Semester Elective/Dual credit with ICCC, Introduction to Sociology [SOC 110]

Prerequisite: Guidance Approval

This course is a concise study of human behavior from the perspective of Sociologists. It will examine the ways in which social interaction, social processes, and social institutions comprise our sociological imagination. The course will also explore the ways that personality, status, role, class, gender, age, race, and ethnicity affect human interaction and institutions.

Peer Help -Grades 10-11-12

Semester Elective

Peer Help is a course designed to help students learn to facilitate the personal growth and development of themselves and others. Through both group and individual work students will learn to be a sensitive listener who uses communication skills to encourage self-exploration and decision-making. The ultimate goal of the class is to provide students with the personal and interpersonal skills to offer appropriate assistance to other people.

Areas of study include listening and communication skills, peer relationships, self-esteem building, questioning techniques, non-verbal communications, exploration of teen issues such as drug/alcohol and sexuality concerns, the death/dying/grieving process, etc.

The classroom procedures include a great deal of discussion and personal writing. The experience of doing the written work has shown that when given these practice assignments, students not only learn the skills more quickly, but also find each classroom session more relevant because they have experienced the immediate application of the skills in their lives outside the classroom.

Peer Practicum - Grades 10-11-12

Semester Elective-No Credit Prerequisite: Peer Help

Peer Practicum is a voluntary elective no-credit-one semester course. Students must have one semester of Peer Helper instruction to be eligible to apply for admission consideration. Students will volunteer as a peer helper in a classroom for one semester. A contract will be set-up with the instructors involved. Although no credit is given for the practicum, the student may count the course as his/her sixth academic class.

AVID – Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Students are selected by the AVID site team Full Year Elective

This is a program that students typically begin when they are in 9th grade and continue until 12th grade. AVID is an acronym that stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. The class is an in-school academic support program that prepares students for college eligibility and success. Students must meet criteria and teacher recommendation to be selected for AVID.

Introduction to Charter-Grade 12

3^d or 4th Quarter Requirement for students planning to enter Charter School

This course will introduce students to the Charter School's expectations and procedures. It will also familiarize students with college resources and procedures at Iowa Central Community College. Other topics include financial aid, personal budgeting, study skills, time and stress management. Students will complete the charter enrollment process before the end of the course.