

Social Studies

A Social Studies class is not required at the 9th grade level. AP Government for 9th grade and AP Human Geography for 9th grade (both year-long) are only suggested for those students who are ADVANCED in reading comprehension, writing, critical thinking and analysis. Both AP courses are the equivalent of a college level introductory course that requires a great deal of outside work. Students are only allowed to register for these courses as a 9th grader with the recommendation of their teacher.

Course Title	Course #	Term	Grade(s)	Prerequisite(s)	Course Description
AP U.S. Government and Politics <i>(year-long course for teacher recommended 9th graders only)</i>	45.0520000	Y	9	Teacher Recommendation	The AP course in U.S. Government and Politics is a year-long course. It is designed to assist students in becoming knowledgeable about the Constitution, the varied political beliefs and behaviors which shape U.S. government, the role of political parties and interest groups, the organization and power of Congress, the president, the bureaucracy, the federal courts, and the development of civil rights and liberties. Students will expand their knowledge by participating in moot courts, mock trials, debates, panel discussions, current issues discussions, and mock elections. In order for a student to be successful in this class, he/she should possess these specific skills: ability to read college level texts independently; ability to critically analyze written materials; ability to take notes and move rapidly through material; ability to work independently outside of class with disciplined work habits; ability to recognize new ideas and perspectives, with a willingness to learn about and respect differences of opinion. Outside commitments: reading and completing study guide materials 4-5 nights a week. Additional performance tasks will require reading and research. This class is comparable to an introductory college political science course and satisfies the state of Georgia American Government graduation requirement.
AP Human Geography <i>(year-long course for teacher-recommended 9th graders only)</i>	45.0770000	Y	9	Teacher Recommendation	Human Geography is a branch of geography that deals with the way humans interact with their environment. We will study demographics, migration, linguistics, religion, political geography, urbanization and industrialization. Specific skills for success: above average reading ability and above average writing skills. Outside commitments: vocabulary quizzes and bi-weekly map quizzes in addition to nightly textbook reading. This course is equivalent to a college course and will be more rigorous than a middle school TAG course or a high school honors course.
World History	45.0830000	Y	10	None	The high school world history course provides students with a comprehensive, intensive study of major events and themes in world history. Students begin with a study of the earliest civilizations worldwide and continue to examine major developments and themes in all regions of the world. The course culminates in a study of change and continuity and globalization at the beginning of the 21st century. Topics include prehistoric culture, ancient civilizations, classical civilizations, the medieval world, the Age of Exploration, Enlightenment, French Revolution, decline of colonial empires in America, Industrial Revolution, nationalism and imperialism, totalitarianism, WWI, WWII, and the modern world.

AP World History	45.0811000	Y	10	Teacher Recommendation	Teaching students to think historically, to construct historical arguments and to analyze data within an historical context will be the focus of AP World History. With material from 8000 BCE to the present serving as the basis for study, students will explore multiple perspectives as they analyze global patterns that have occurred over time. Students will spend a great deal of time writing, reading, and interpreting artifacts as they strive to become true historians themselves.
U. S. History	45.0810000	Y	11	None	The high school United States history course provides students with a comprehensive, intensive study of major events and themes in United States history. Beginning with early European colonization, the course examines major events and themes throughout United States history. The course concludes with significant developments in the early 21st century. Topics include colonization, the revolutionary and colonial eras, manifest destiny, Civil War and reconstruction, urbanization and Industrialism, progressive era, imperialism, WWI & WWII, The Cold War, Vietnam, and the Decades of 1950 – 2000.
AP U.S. History	45.0820000	Y	11	Teacher Recommendation	The advanced placement course in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the challenges and issues in U.S. History. The study of U.S. History begins with a brief review of the discovery and settlement of the Americas and continues into a rigorous in-depth study of U.S. History from the mid-17th century to the present time. Students will learn to analyze and interpret primary sources, to take notes from lectures and printed materials, and to write essays and analytical/historiographical papers. Topics include: Multicultural heritage, Colonial period, American Revolution, Jacksonian Democracy and sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction, Triumph of the American Nation, Gilded Age, Progressivism and immigration, Great Depression and New Deal, Labor movement, Civil Rights and women's movement, World Wars I and II, Cold War, and New World Order.
Economics	45.0610001	S	12	U.S. History	The economics course provides students with a basic foundation in the field of economics. The course has five sections: fundamental concepts, microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics, and personal finance. In each area, students are introduced to major concepts and themes concerning that aspect of economics. Topics include supply and demand, market forces, money, banking and capital, organization of natural resources, the national economy and global interdependence.

AP Macroeconomics	45.0620011	S	12	U.S. History	AP Macroeconomics is a semester-long introductory college-level course that focuses on the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination; it also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Extensive math skills are not required; however, students must learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. In order for a student to be successful in this class, he/she should possess these specific skills: ability to read college level texts independently; ability to critically analyze graphs; ability to take notes and move rapidly through material; ability to work independently outside of class with disciplined work habits. This semester-long course will prepare students for the AP Macroeconomics exam in May and also satisfies the Georgia graduation requirement for Economics.
AP Economics (Micro 1st Semester/Macro 2nd Semester) <i>Note: Students must sign up for BOTH semester-long courses</i>	45.0630011 45.0620011	Y	12	U.S. History	AP Microeconomics & Macroeconomics is a fast paced, yearlong, college-level course that focuses on the decision making of individuals, businesses, and the government. In this yearlong course, students will study a variety of economic theories and analyze their practical application in the real world. This yearlong course will cover both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics focuses on the supply and demand for products, the labor markets, and the role competition plays in a free market system. Macroeconomics focuses on the economy as a whole, including economic measures, economic growth, fiscal policy, monetary policy, and international economics. Extensive math skills are not required; however, students must learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. In order for a student to be successful in this class, he/she should possess these specific skills: ability to read college level texts independently; ability to critically analyze graphs; ability to take notes and move rapidly through material; ability to work independently outside of class with disciplined work habits. This yearlong class is comparable to an introductory college economics course and will prepare students for the AP Macroeconomics & Microeconomics exams in May. This course also satisfies the Georgia graduation requirement for Economics.
Sociology	45.0310003	S	11-12	None	The emphasis of Sociology is to show the complexity of social life with its inter-connections between social events and conditions. Topics will include adolescence and socialization, the institutional structure of society, stratification and race relations and understanding social change. The course will also cover social problems in the U.S. and how they affect the individual and society as a whole. Crime, poverty, race and ethnic relations will be studied as well.

<p>AP U.S. Government & Politics (<i>semester-long for upper classmen; fulfills the state requirement for American Government</i>)</p>	45.0520011	S	12	Teacher Recommendation	<p>The AP course in U.S. Government and Politics is a semester-long course. It is designed to assist students in becoming knowledgeable about the Constitution, the varied political beliefs and behaviors which shape U.S. government, the role of political parties and interest groups, the organization and powers of Congress, the president, the bureaucracy, the federal courts, and the development of civil rights and liberties. Students will play roles in simulations such as moot courts, participate in debates, read and analyze current issues, take notes from lectures, and answer multiple choice and free response questions. Outside of class, students will attend local government meetings and <i>may</i> visit the Carter Presidential Museum and Library, the Martin Luther King Center, the State Capitol, and other museums in the Atlanta area that interest the student. In order for a student to be successful in this class, he/she should possess these skills: ability to read college level texts independently; ability to critically analyze written works; ability to take notes and move rapidly through material; ability to work independently outside of class with disciplined work habits; ability to recognize perspectives, with a willingness to learn about and respect differences of opinion. Outside commitments: reading and completing study guide materials 4-5 nights a week, working approximately 45 minutes - one hour a night; attending at least one local government meeting; additional performance tasks that will require reading and research. This class is comparable to an introductory college political science course and satisfies the state of Georgia American Government graduation requirement.</p>
<p>American Government & Politics</p>	45.0570001	S	12	None	<p>The state-mandated American Government course provides students with a background in the philosophy, functions, and structure of the United States government. Students examine the philosophical foundations of the United States government and how that philosophy developed. Students also examine the structure and function of the United States government and its relationship to states and citizens. The course will cover U.S. constitutional principles, the branches of the federal government, factors influencing the political process, the role of the media and political parties, and civil rights and responsibilities. Students will construct and evaluate arguments, use documents and other primary source data to analyze points of view, analyze and interpret information, and write document-based and comparative analysis essays.</p>

AP Comparative Gov. & Politics	45.0530011	S	11-12	Teacher Recommendation	<p>AP Government and Politics: Comparative is a semester- long elective that introduces students to fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. The course aims to illustrate the rich diversity of political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes. In addition to covering the major concepts that are used to organize and interpret what we know about political phenomena and relationships, the course covers six specific countries and their governments: China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. In order for a student to be successful in this class, he/she should possess these specific skills: ability to read college level texts independently; ability to critically analyze written materials; ability to take notes and move rapidly through material; ability to work independently outside of class with disciplined work habits; ability to recognize new ideas and perspectives, with a willingness to learn about and respect differences of opinion. Outside commitments: reading and completing study guide materials 4-5 nights a week, working app. one hour a night. Additional performance tasks will require outside reading and research. This class is comparable to an introductory college political science course.</p>
AP Psychology	45.0160000	Y	11-12	Teacher Recommendation	<p>The purpose of Advanced Placement Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields of psychology. In addition, the course will stress the need to think like a psychologist. As author and social psychologist David Myers, notes – to think as a psychologist, one must learn to “restrain intuition with critical thinking, judgmentalism with compassion, and illusion with understanding” (Sternberg, 1997). Whether students choose to pursue a career in psychology or in an entirely different field, this habit of mind will be of great value.</p>