

## Top 5 Frequently- Asked Scheduling Questions for Social Studies

### 1. **Should my son/daughter take Honors World History or the College-Prep (“regular”) World History?**

Honors World History is for students who did well in 8<sup>th</sup> grade history and are looking for more of a challenge in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. For students who are considering taking the AP U.S. History course as a sophomore, you are expected to take the Honors World History in 9<sup>th</sup> grade to prepare for the rigors of AP.

While honors and “regular” world history courses use the same book and cover the same time periods of history (1750-present), the honors course has components that are not found in the “regular” course. These include:

- Analyzing a novel – currently teachers are using “Cry, the Beloved Country”.
- A portfolio project which involves 3 independent assignments outside of class.
- Pre- Advanced Placement(AP) assignments designed to prepare students for AP courses, including document analysis, document-based questions (DBQ’s), essay writing, and readings from a college-level world history book to supplement the freshman world history book.

### 2. **Should my son/daughter sign up for AP U.S. History as a Sophomore?**

Advanced Placement U.S. History is a college-level course designed by the College Board. The course uses a college-level history textbook and tests designed as well by the College Board.

The rigor of this coursework is a significant step up from the Honors World History course. While the honors course helped prepare students for that rigor, students must be prepared for significantly higher volume of work that requires a lot of self-discipline as a learner. ***A student who is not quite ready for the AP challenge as a sophomore will have opportunities to take AP courses in social studies as a junior and senior.***

Students who are successful in an AP courses have a strong interest in the subject they are taking, are self-motivated learners, and have effective self-monitoring skills such as time management, task planning, and seeking assistance when needed.

We ask ALL students considering AP U.S. History as a sophomore to complete the sample assignments posted on the Guidance page in Edline as a self-assessment of course readiness. A typical week for an AP U.S. History student would include:

- Reading up to 20 pages per night in a college-level history textbook
- Reading quizzes
- A weekend Document-Based Question assignment where they are asked to interpret a set of 10-12 primary source documents and write an essay.
- Participation in required class discussions, such as a debate or Socratic seminar

### 3. Which course should my son/daughter take during Junior year?

Juniors in are required to take a one-semester course with an economic issues component. They have a choice of taking a specific economics survey course or one of the courses in which economic issues are examined in context.

**Economics**: is a survey course of micro and macro-economic principles. While the course is good for any student, those who plan to pursue business, management, finance or similar fields in college will find this course a solid introduction that will help them in college economics courses.

**Modern Political and Economic Issues** : Students in this issues-based course will analyze political and economic events and trends in an historical context while examining the implications these issues have for the future. Units of study include *economic globalization, international peace and security, terrorism, and regional political or economic issues.*

**Contemporary Social Issues**: This course is designed to engage students in analyzing specific modern social issues that impact politics, economics and society. Units of study include *religion and society, human rights, and the tension that occurs when a society becomes integrated globally.*

Students who have taken AP U.S. History or opt to take to take AP European History will encounter economics material in those courses, so they are exempted from taking one of the three courses listed above. Those students are encouraged to take one of the course if their schedule allows as they offer perspectives on the modern world.

### 4. Is there a continuous progress option in social studies?

Students may take the American Government course third trimester of junior year instead of senior year.

### 5. Do I have to follow a pattern in order to take a specific AP course?

While some subject areas require prerequisite courses for AP, social studies does not. Any student may take AP Psychology or AP European History during junior year or senior year, and AP American Government during senior year. AP U.S. History may be taken during sophomore, junior, or senior year.

It is important that students recognize that AP courses are college courses designed by the College Board. Please read the section above (answer #2) for a better understanding of AP readiness.

Social Studies AP courses available:

- 10<sup>th</sup> grade – AP U.S. History
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade – AP U.S. History, AP Psychology, and AP European History
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade – AP U.S. History, AP Psychology, AP European History, and AP U.S. Government