

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE INFORMATION

Please note that all classes listed are not offered every year. Please refer to the Course List on the website for the classes offered during the current school year.

The Graduation Requirements for Social Studies are: World History, Civics and Economics and U.S. History. For complete course descriptions and graduation requirements, please visit the main Student Services section of the Leesville Website.

Freshmen take World History or Honors World History.

They may also select to take Paideia World History, regular or honors.

Students can opt to take their required World History or Honors World History class as a Paideia Course. The Paideia Program, an interdisciplinary approach, encourages students to think across subject areas and curriculum boundaries. These courses develop students' critical and analytical thinking skills. Great classics, modern works of literature, and original documents are studied within the appropriate historical framework. Teachers use traditional means, weekly seminars, and supervised practice referred to as coaching. Paideia is a two-credit course that covers World History and English I requirements at each grade level. Students must take both courses.

Social Studies Electives

African American History and Culture

Have you ever heard of someone referred to as light-skinned or dark-skinned? What does this mean, and why does it matter? If this question interests you, then so will African American History. African American History focuses on the pre-Columbian period and the establishment of strong opposing kingdoms followed by the era of Western European slave trade. Then we examine the impact that slavery had on the African American culture and debate relevant contemporary issues.

Law and Justice

Have you ever...watched four straight hours of "Court TV" and wished you had time for more? Imagined yourself chasing America's Most Wanted, or going to trial with the people from "Law and Order"? If you see yourself in the above questions, consider taking Law and Justice. We will combine a study of the legal system with practical exposure to the issues and situations that confront lawyers and law-enforcement agents, and you will leave the course more informed of your rights - and your duties as a citizen.

Lessons of the Vietnam War/International Relations

40102E

1 credit

The first half of this course focuses on the Vietnam War and related issues. Topics include the geography, history, and culture of Vietnam; the ethical questions that arose during the conflict; the events of the social protest movement; worldwide response and involvement in Vietnam; problems of Vietnamese refugees and U.S. veterans; and Vietnam today. The second half is designed as a study of the major trends and issues in the post-World War II era with an insight into the growing interdependence of nations of the world. Emphasis is placed on the decision-making process of the United States in the field of foreign affairs. Recent problems, policies, and programs of the United States are analyzed.

Sociology/Psychology

Interested in both Sociology and Psychology? You can take *both* in one class! Sociology/Psychology is a semester long course where you will study Sociology for one quarter and Psychology for one quarter. This is a great course if you are interested in a basic understanding of both subjects. Sociology focuses on group interaction and social behavior. Major topics include culture, family, religion, social classes, deviance and inequalities of gender/age/race. Psychology focuses on the individual. Major topics include learning, development, personality, motivation, sleep/dreams and psychological disorders. Research, individual and group projects, simulations, experiments, and class discussions will be major tools of learning in this course.

World Religions and the Bible as History

Religion and Bible is divided into two units. Initially, we study the world's major faiths, focusing on their similarities and differences. From the Islamic Koran to the Biblical Testament, from Moksha to Nirvana, from Jerusalem to Rome, we tour the world, examining the concept of religion. Field Trips are taken to five major houses of worship including a Buddhist Shrine and Hindu Temple. In the final nine weeks, we analyze the relation between the scriptural truth of the Bible and hard historical evidence, which can lead to amazing revelations. From the Burning Bush to the Dead Sea Scrolls, from the Passion to the Stigmata, from the missing Gospels to the notion of miracles, we examine the intricate mysteries of the globe's number one bestseller – the Bible. This is a fun class which can truly open doors and will lend itself to one ultimate goal, universal tolerance of our fellow human being.

Honors Electives

Honors Holocaust and Genocide in World Studies

This course will study the history of various genocides and holocausts throughout time along with attempts at wiping out groups based on religious, racial and national origins, from the WWII Holocaust to genocides in Rwanda, Armenia, Cambodia, Sudan and Darfur. Students will investigate the nature of civilization itself and focus on prevention strategies for future genocide and dehumanization.

Honors Law and Justice

The Constitution meets “Cops,” a possible cure for a “Law and Order” addiction, a chance to meet the agents depicted in “CSI” and “The Agency”...students in Law and Justice will combine a study of American Law, including constitutional protections, definitions of crimes, and a host of topics in between, with exposure to the ways that the law is applied by the judges, attorneys, and law enforcement officers who interpret and implement it every day. We tackle Supreme Court decisions on college admission, cross burning, and drug testing of students in public schools, among others, and we study current North Carolina criminal law. In the course of the semester, you will make oral arguments to a Supreme Court of your peers and will take part in a mock criminal trial. If you are considering a legal career – or if you just like to debate issues of rights, responsibilities, and justice, consider signing up for Honors Law and Justice.

Honors Psychology

What is your personality? What do your dreams mean? Who is Sigmund Freud? Why do we fall in love? What is schizophrenia and how is it treated? Why would people wash their hands until they bleed? If you have ever wondered about these questions, then psychology is the class for you! This elective focuses on the study of the individual and behavior. We look at a variety of topics that help us better understand the human mind and actions, exploring everything from emotions to childhood development to abnormal behaviors. We will also conduct experiments and analyze results. If you have ever thought about being a psychologist, or if you just want to learn more about people and their behavior, then psychology is a great choice for you.

Honors Sociology

Are men truly more aggressive than women? If so, why? Why does the United States have one of the highest divorce rates in the world? Are people treated differently according to the social class in which they belong? Why are people deviant? Can a government successfully legislate morality? Are the cultures of the world more similar than they are different? Are there solutions to the world’s problems? These questions and more will be addressed in sociology. During this course, you will examine societal behavior and how group interaction shapes both individual and group behavior. You will analyze the value systems, norms and institutions that enable people to live together. In your exploration, you will use the tools of a sociologist as well as participate in certain simulations in order to uncover the answers. Ultimately, you might see yourself and the world around you in a whole new way.

Advanced Placement Classes

AP Economics

Advanced Placement Economics conforms to the pattern of introductory level economics at the college level. Students achieve an analytical and comprehensive understanding of macro- and micro-economic principles and relationships.

AP European History

This is predominantly a Senior level class that covers the period 1450-The Modern Day in Europe. Topics covered include the Renaissance and Reformation, the Sun King in Versailles, Peter the Great in Russia, the Age of Reason and Science, the constancy of the Roman Catholic Church, great women such as Elizabeth 1 of England and Maria Theresa of Austria, Imperialism, two World Wars, the Cold War and the world in which we live today. The class seeks to fine-tune a student's ability to write well under timed pressure-free response questions and documents both serve as essay models. Organizational skills are required in terms of notes and summaries, sorting factual material and determining relevance. The majority of the workload, reading aside, occurs during class time. This is a fun but challenging class in which academic success will truly have to be earned.

AP Psychology

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systemic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Subfields covered include: History and Approaches, Research Methods, Biological Bases of Behavior, Sensation and Perception, States of Consciousness, Learning, Cognition, Motivation and Emotion, Developmental Psychology, Personality, Testing and Individual Differences, Abnormal Psychology, Treatment of Psychological Disorders, and Social Psychology. Students will also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. This course is unique in that it offers students a significant academic challenge while addressing many personal and "real life" issues. Students seem to enjoy the many applications to issues that affect them personally as they study various topics. Parents of students enrolled in the course often remark that issues addressed in class often become topics of "dinner table discussions". The goal of this course is to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory psychology course.

AP US Government and Politics

The AP United States Government and Politics course is a broad overview of American politics, roughly equivalent to a college introductory political science course. Through examination of political theory, structure of institutions, and current policy debates, students will be exposed to a variety of analytical perspectives on the workings of our system of government. The course includes six major units, including the Constitutional foundations of American government, political beliefs and behaviors, parties and elections, the institutions of national government, civil rights and civil liberties and public policy. Students will be expected to complete and respond to assigned reading from the textbook, examine and discuss additional outside sources, participate fully in class discussion and lectures, and actively follow current events throughout the course. In addition to preparing students for the AP exam in May, this course is designed to help them refine their understanding of current policy and the trends of national politics.

AP U. S. History

If you are a strong reader and writer who likes to know not only what happened, but *why* things occurred, then Advanced Placement U. S. History may be the course for you. Alumni

will be able to answer all of the following questions: Did U. S. History really begin in 1789? Who are the forgettable presidents, and how did they earn that nickname? What president embraced the donkey as a political symbol, and why did he do so? What does it mean to say that Obama is getting a jumpstart on his first Hundred Days, or that he may issue a new New Deal? Perhaps most importantly, colleges respect the rigor that a successful experience in this course represents. Doing well here is a way to prove to yourself what you're capable of, to set yourself apart as a student, and to earn 6 college credits with a passing score on the national exam in May.

AP World History

AP World History is a comprehensive study of World History from 8000BCE to the present. This course adheres to a global approach to Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania. Students should be highly motivated and qualified in order to complete the course of study and the exam. The course places an emphasis on the analysis of the processes and causes of changes and continuities through the examination of themes. Remember you are signing up for the GLOBAL PICTURE.