

# Township of Union Public Schools

## Social Studies Department



The general focus of the social studies department is to foster a comprehensive understanding of the social, political, and economic forces that have shaped and influenced human development on a multi-cultural level. Along with subject specific content, social studies courses promote critical thinking and writing skills assessed by PSAT, SAT, ACT, and PARCC.

### FULL YEAR COURSES

#### **Grade 9**

#### **Required Course**

SS 131	Honors World History
SS 132	World History

#### **Grade 10**

#### **Required Course**

SS 230	Advanced Placement United States History 1
SS 231	Honors United States History 1
SS 233	United States History 1

#### **Grades 11**

#### **Required Course**

SS 340	Advanced Placement United States History II
SS 341	Honors United States History II
SS 343	United States History II

#### **Grades 11 & 12**

#### **Elective Courses**

SS 240	Economics
SS 330	Cultural Studies
SS 350	Sociology

SS370	Advanced Placement European History
SS 373	Advanced Placement Comparative Government
SS 380	Advanced Placement Psychology
SS 382	Psychology
SS330	Cultural Studies
SS360	Introduction to Law
SS371	Advanced Placement Government& Politics
SS391	Honors Humanities
SS 392	Humanities
SS 420S	History through Media, Pop Culture & Film
SS 430	African American History
SS 480	Tomorrow's Teachers

The State of New Jersey requires that the following three social studies courses be successfully completed in order to earn a high school diploma: World History and United States History 1 and 2. Students who wish to further their academic experiences in the field of social studies have a broad variety of electives which they may choose to include in their schedule. Please refer to the curriculum listings for the available elective choices.

**Advancement Placement Program** – Students apply for advanced placement classes and are evaluated on a rubric created by teachers and administrators. The rubric includes PARCC scores (or a replacement exam), current department course average, previous department course final grade, and department course midterm. The rubric has been approved by the board of education.

This is a national program in which highly motivated students take **college-level courses** at the high school level. This is done in cooperation with secondary schools, colleges, and the College Board. More than 2,900 universities and colleges worldwide grant credit, advanced placement, or both to students who have performed satisfactorily on the Advanced Placement exams. College credit is not guaranteed, and acceptance of credit is up to each individual institution.

The **United States History Advanced Placement course** is taught over a two year period. The first year, AP United States History 1 is taught in grade ten. The course is continued in grade eleven with AP United States History 2. Both courses are necessary if students are to be prepared for the Advanced Placement exam, which will be administered in May of the second year. AP United States History 1 and 2 satisfy the state requirement of two years of American history. The **Advanced Placement Psychology, Government and Politics, Comparative Government, and Advanced Placement**

**European History courses** are completed after one year with the AP exam also administered in May. Students may choose to take AP Psychology, AP European History, Government and Politics, and/or Comparative Government in their junior or senior year.

**SS 230 United States History I - Advanced Placement** (open to students in grade 10 - first of a two year program)

**SS 340 United States History II - Advanced Placement** (open to students in grade 11 - prerequisite - completion of AP U.S. History I)

**SS 370 Advanced Placement European History** (open to students in grades 11 & 12- one year program)

**SS 371 Advanced Placement Government and Politics** (open to students in grades 11 & 12- one year program)

**SS 373 Advanced Placement Comparative Government-** (open to students in grades 11 & 12- one year program)

**SS 380 Advanced Placement Psychology** (open to students in grade 11 & 12- one year program)

### **REQUIRED COURSE - Grade 9**

#### **SS 131 Honors World History (9)**

This honors social studies course demands a more advanced level of study, discussion, writing, and examination. It is designed to challenge the more academically talented student who must have demonstrated superior ability in social science and have met established criteria. An individual research paper, projects, in-depth discussions, and extensive readings are required. Areas of study are the same as SS132.

#### **SS 132 World History & Cultures (9)**

This course traces the history of the world from the Age of Exploration and Expansion up to the present. A review of the Renaissance, Reformation, and Absolutism in Europe leads into a study of empires in China, Japan, and the areas under Islamic rule. The topic of Revolution includes the influence of the Enlightenment and the revolutions in England, the United States, France, and Latin America, as well as the Industrial Revolution.

Focus then shifts to the growth of European reform movements, along with rising nationalism and its inherent imperialism in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa - leading ultimately to World War I. Attention is also paid to the Russian Revolution. The theme of nationalism is followed into China, Africa, and India.

The final study is of modern Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, encompassing global issues, such as economic interdependence, diversity, and human rights.

A variety of skills have been integrated into the curriculum, including critical thinking, research, writing, cooperative learning, and analysis of maps and graphic organizers.

## **REQUIRED COURSE - U.S. History 1 - (10)**

### **SS 230 Advanced Placement United States History 1**

The AP program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full year introductory college courses. Students will learn to assess historical materials--their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance--and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP United States History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgement and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

The area of study for the first year of this two year program will begin with pre-Colonial history and continue through Reconstruction.

### **SS 231 United States History 1 - Honors**

This honors social studies course demands a more advanced level of study, discussion and examination. It is designed to challenge the more academically talented student who must have demonstrated superior ability in social science and have met department determined criteria. An individual research paper, reading of historical novels, projects, in-depth discussions and extensive readings are required. Areas of study are the same as SS233.

### **SS 233 United States History 1**

This course traces the history of the United States from the immediate Post-Reconstruction Era up to World War I. A brief review of the Colonial Period will serve as a bridge to a critical analysis of the development of the United States from a "house divided" to a modern industrial world power. Aspects of the United States Constitution will be integrated throughout the course.

The growth of the United States will be examined within the thematic contexts of government, society, economy and foreign policy. These themes will be utilized as guides to evaluate the major events that transpired within the chronological periods of 1700-1776, 1776-1820, 1820-1877, 1877-1900, and 1900-1919. Special attention is given to those issues pertaining to geography, leadership, diversity, and topics focusing on New Jersey.

A variety of skills have been integrated into the curriculum including critical thinking, research, writing, cooperative learning, analysis of charts and graphs, role playing, as well as job/workplace readiness proficiencies.

## **REQUIRED COURSE - U.S. History II - (11)**

### **SS340 Advanced Placement United States History II**

The AP program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials - their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance - and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP United States History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgement and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format. Prerequisite: Completion of SS230 - AP U.S. History I.

This course traces the history of the United States from Industrialization and urbanization of the post-Reconstruction period up to, and including the present day. Students will examine historical issues from a variety of perspectives. Students will also analyze the causes and evaluate the effects of particular social, political, economic and civic problems of different time frames.

A variety of strategies will be incorporated to communicate the content. Primary documents, individual and group research, and selected pieces of art and literature will be blended into the instructional process.

### **SS341 Honors United States History II**

This honors social studies course demands a more advanced level of study, discussion and examination. It is designed to challenge the more academically talented student who must have demonstrated superior ability in social science and have met department determined criteria. An individual research paper, projects, in-depth discussions and extensive readings are required. Areas of study are the same as SS343.

### **SS343 United States History II**

This course traces the history of the United States from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century up to the present. A brief review of the World War I era through the Roaring Twenties will serve as a bridge to a critical analysis of the development of the United States from a modern industrial world power to a global superpower. Aspects of the United States Constitution will be integrated throughout the course.

The history of the United States will be examined within the thematic contexts of government, society, economy, and foreign policy. These themes will be utilized as guides to evaluate the major events that transpired within the chronological periods of 1929-1937, 1937-1945, 1945-1963, 1963-1980, 1980-present. Special attention is given to those issues pertaining to geography, leadership, diversity, and topics focusing on New Jersey.

A variety of skills have been integrated into the curriculum including critical thinking, research, writing, cooperative learning, analysis of charts and graphs, role playing, as well as job/workplace readiness proficiencies.

# Social Studies Electives

The social studies department offers a variety of elective courses for students in grade 11 & 12. The state of New Jersey requires that all students pass World History, United States History I, and United States History II in order to graduate. Electives offer students an opportunity to take additional courses on topics of interest or which may reflect a possible college or career choice. Students, in concert with guidance counselors, will select electives for the upcoming school year, and it is advisable that parents and/or guardians have input regarding student selections.

**SS 240 Economics:** This course investigates business and money on the local, state, national, and international levels. Microeconomics, or the role of individuals and small businesses, is the focus of the first semester, while macroeconomics or the role of corporations, governments, and international policy is the focus of the second semester.

**SS 330 Cultural Studies:** American History topics regarding the roles and contributions of African-Americans, Latinos, Asians, and women is the focus of this course. A variety of readings along with research will supplant the use of a single text, along with a variety of activities and hands-on-projects.

**SS 350 Sociology:** The nature of American society reflected by our cultural environment and social groupings, our values, societal evolution, personality development, behavior, norms, and taboos are the primary topics in this course. Major social institutions and their function and influence, along with race and ethnicity, are also investigated.

**SS 360 Introduction to Law:** The function of the legal system, it's relation to young people, career opportunities, courtroom procedures, resolution of legal difficulties and responsibilities, and basic life skills will be covered in this course. Outside speakers and relevant field trips will also be a part of this experience.

**SS 370 Advanced Placement European History:** A documented academic record of performance above an "A" average is required for admittance into this advanced placement course, which concentrates on the history and influence of the European region throughout history, culminating with the annual advanced placement exam which administered nationwide in the spring.

**SS 371 Advanced Placement Government and Politics:** At the advanced placement level, this course will focus on various issues related to American government and political policies, both contemporary and historical, for analysis and evaluation. An academic record of at least an "A" average and teacher recommendation are necessary, and the advanced placement exam affords the opportunity for college credit.

**SS 373 Advanced Placement Comparative Government:** This course 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 the differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic change.

**SS 380 Advanced Placement Psychology:** Covering similar topics to the regular (SS 382) psychology course in greater depth and breadth, this course culminates with the national advanced placement test administered in the spring, which may result in college credit. Research and experiments are also highlighted.

**SS 382 Psychology:** This course addresses the principles of learning, thinking, and memory as well as the connection between the human body, the mind, and behavior. The development of personality and behavioral disorders are also studied.

**SS 391/392 Honors Humanities/Humanities:** The music, art, philosophy, literature, and architecture of Western culture are examined in chronological order from Classical Greece to modern times in an analysis of their influences on society then and now. Units on Asian and African traditions are also included. The Honors option (391) will require additional projects, research, and writing for Honors level credit, and students must be approved via the application process.

**SS 420S History through Media, Pop Culture, & Film (1/2 year course):** This course will analyze and examine everything from how political cartoons have altered opinions, to how songs, film, TV and media have created opinions on groups, politics and perception.

**SS 430 African American History:** This course deals with the social, economic, political and cultural contributions of African Americans to the United States. The course begins with medieval West African empires, moves into the Atlantic trade and then into the history and experiences of African Americans up to the present. Students will often work collaboratively and will be required to contribute to the collaborative effort. Ability to hear, respect and analyze opposing viewpoints is critical in this type of collaborative learning. The personal and familial experiences of students are valued and necessary in this course. As such, solid verbal and written communication skills are vital. Additionally, there is a requirement for sufficient reading and critical analysis of that reading.

**SS 480 Tomorrow's Teachers:** (Offered only to seniors) Tomorrow's Teachers is an innovative course designed to attract talented young people who possess exemplary interpersonal and leadership skills to consider a career in teaching. The program seeks to provide high school students insight into the nature of teaching, the problems of schooling, and the critical issues affecting the quality of education in America's schools. As such, the program also provides these aspiring future teachers to also become community leaders with insights about teachers and schools that will enable them to be advocates of education.