

Thomas S. Wootton High School

Social Studies Department

Resource Teacher:

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Required Courses

The following courses are required in a three year sequence and are offered in both on-level and honors levels:

US HISTORY A AND B (9th Grade)

A two-semester course in the study of United States History from the opening of the West in the 1870s through the present. Each semester carries ½ credit value.

NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT A AND B (10th Grade)

A two-semester course in the study of the three branches of government at the national, state and local levels, and an overview of rights and responsibilities of citizens at each of these levels of government. Fair housing under the law, the electoral process, U. S. foreign policy, and the economy will also be studied. Each semester carries ½ credit value. At the completion of the second semester of study, students will sit for the High School Assessment test, passage of which will be a requirement of graduation.

MODERN WORLD HISTORY A AND B (11th Grade)

A two-semester course in the study of the history of the modern world beginning with the Italian Renaissance in the mid-1300s through the present. Each semester carries ½ credit value.

Authorized Substitutions for Required Courses

The following Advanced Placement (AP) courses may be substituted for the required courses:

1. AP US History A and B for US History A and B
2. AP NSL Government A and B for NSL A and B*
3. AP World History A and B for Modern World History A and B

WHAT TO EXPECT IN AN AP HISTORY COURSE

1. Reading Load: At least one 30 – 40 page chapter per week
2. Lectures cover material in text and bring in ancillary information as well
3. Primarily a lecture course. Advanced Placement is very content driven
4. Emphasis is placed on primary source documents and document-based questions (DBQs)
5. Within the DBQs, emphasis is placed on writing and the analysis of primary documents
6. Homework is assigned every night. Approximately 15 – 18 hours per week
7. Analytical approach to questioning is used
8. Students must take responsibility for their own learning
9. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Test in May

WHAT TO EXPECT IN ON-LEVEL AND HONORS COURSES

1. Easier reading load: One chapter per unit. Each unit approximately three (3) week long
2. Most of all of the information is covered in class
3. On-level class approach is less analytical; in honors, more so
4. More hands on, more time given to projects and class time given to work on projects
5. Textbooks are differentiated between on-level and honors courses
6. Honors and on-level assignments are differentiated

* Students taking AP NSL Government will sit for the AP American Government Test given in May

Social Studies Electives Open To Students in Junior/Senior Year

AP Comparative Government

AP European History

AP Human Geography

AP Psychology

AP Macroeconomic Theory

AP Microeconomic Theory

AP National, State and Local Government

AP US History

AP World History

The African American Experience

Comparative Religions

Influence of the Media on American Society

Law

Philosophy: Ethics

Sociology