

9th Grade Social Studies

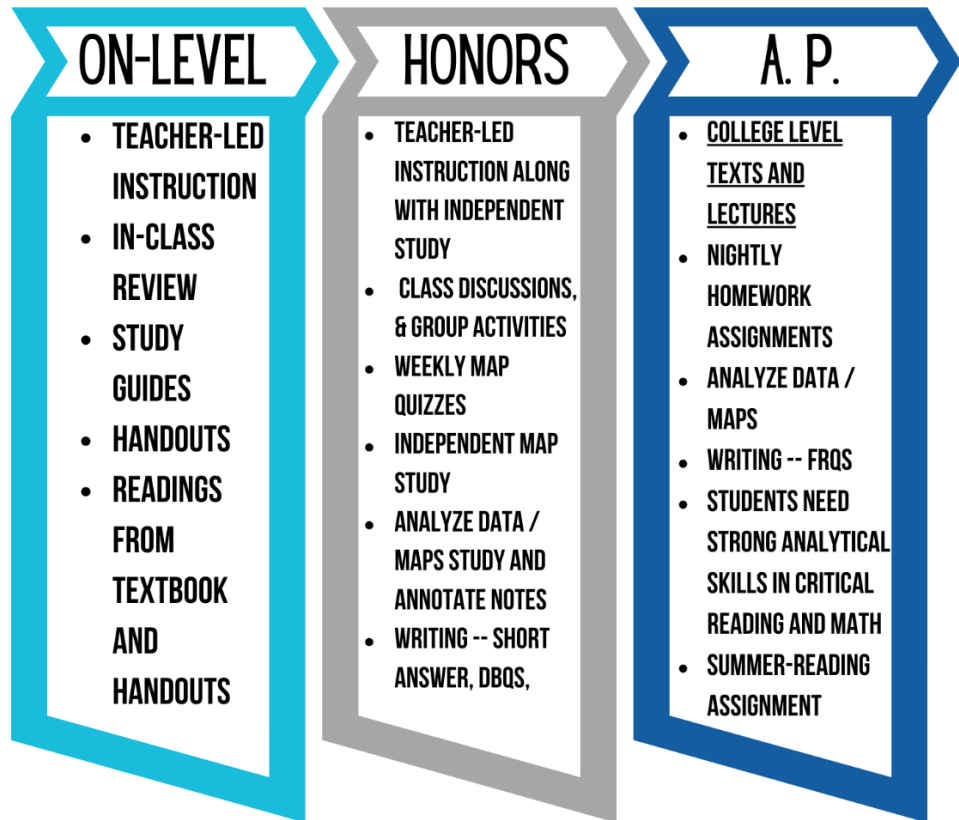
Humanities is an introduction to and foundation of high school Social Studies courses for 9th grade students. Students will focus on physical, environmental, cultural, political, social, and global aspects of Geography and early World History. Teachers will help students with study skills including reading and note-taking strategies by using a learning environment in which the teacher facilitates instruction.

Teachers will walk

students through geographic themes/basic map skills and provide in-class review sessions and handouts to help students achieve success on unit exams.

Honors Humanities is an introduction to and foundation of high school Social Studies courses for 9th grade students. This is an accelerated course that will utilize advanced writing prompts and reading passages. It is intended to prepare students for Honors and AP sophomore courses. The course uses a thematic approach to the study of Geography and early World History. Students will focus on physical, environmental, cultural, political, social, and global aspects of geography. Students should be able to read independently and take notes/annotate readings, engage in debates/Socratic seminars, manage time effectively, write a thesis statement, analyze documents, cite information, and be effective collaborators during group projects. Students should also have a decent grasp of basic geographic and historical thinking skills. Teachers will guide students through geographic/historical themes and their effects on the global society. Students in Honors Humanities will have map quizzes every week. Students should have a genuine interest in Social Sciences/Geography.

Human Geography is the equivalent of a one-semester college-level course. The goal of this course is for students to become more geoliterate, more engaged in contemporary global issues, and more informed about multicultural viewpoints. Students will write frequently. Writings (FRQs) will be patterned after the type of questions asked on the AP Human Geography Exam. Students will have multiple opportunities to apply information addressed in each unit through notetaking, current events, projects, and formative / summative assessments. Students should have strong analytical skills in critical reading and a willingness to do college level work, and a track record of strong work ethic and an interest in social sciences. Students will have nightly homework and assignments. **This course has a required summer assignment.**



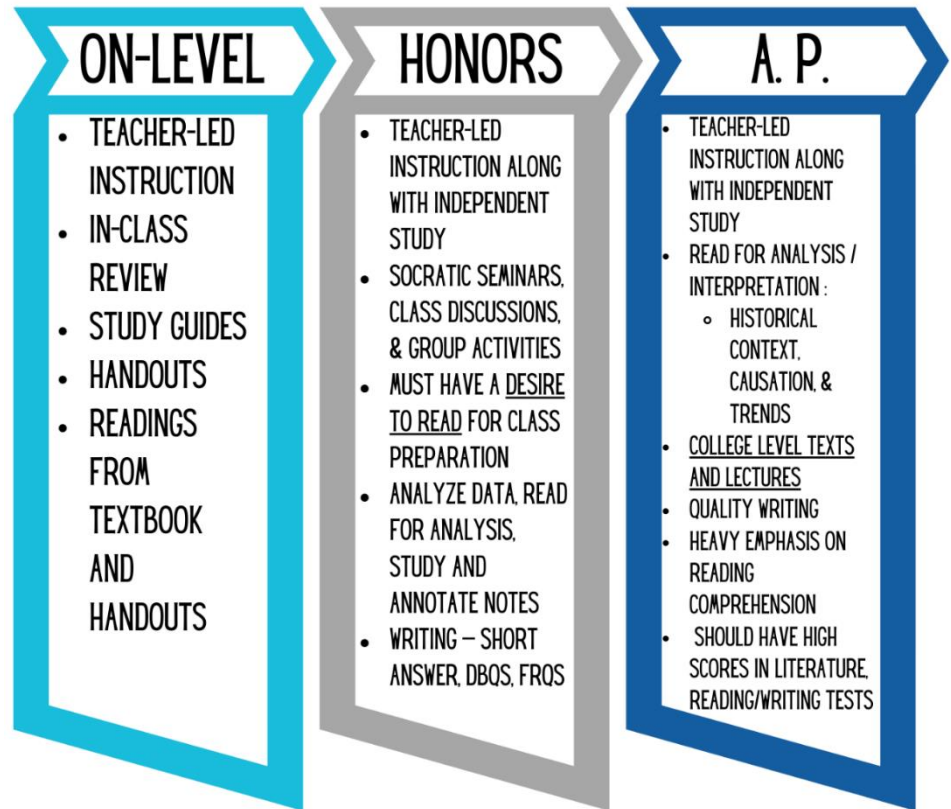
10th Grade Social Studies

On-level World History will help students with study skills including reading and note-taking strategies by using a learning environment in which the teacher facilitates instruction. Teachers will walk you through history and help you understand the reasons why events happened in World History. Teachers will guide students in discussions about pivotal events in history and provide in-class review sessions and handouts to help students achieve success on unit exams and End of Course Exams.

Honors World History requires you to use your knowledge of World History to analyze people's perspectives through cartoons,

literature, speeches, and even statistics. The Honors' course blends teacher facilitated instructions with independent study in which students will share their perspectives and knowledge. You must have a **desire** to read your homework assignments to prepare for class discussions, Socratic Seminars & group activities as well as assume responsibility for studying your notes. Your teachers will focus on reading & historical thinking skills to help you gain a deeper understanding instead of just knowing basic World History events. Furthermore, you will use writing strategies learned in English Language Arts classes for Short Answer Questions, Document Based Essays, and Free Response Essays. Teachers will expect you to develop thesis statements, topic sentences, introductions, and conclusions as well as use specific factual information to support your claims in the body paragraphs.

AP World History Modern will require students to investigate significant events, individuals, and historical developments and processes from 1200 to the present. Students will develop and use historical thinking skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing and writing historical arguments (This course is writing intensive); making historical connections across time and space; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. Students will also be taught how to view history through a thematic lens. These themes include, Social, Political, Interaction (Human/Environment), Cultural, and Economic. The thematic approach will help students make connections among different historical developments, in different times and places. **Students will have an average of 1 hour of reading per night.** Students will be taught how to read for interpretation rather than just information. Memorizing facts is easy, but learning how to interpret those facts and seeing how multiple facts interact together, is much more difficult. Students must know their "Why" for taking this course. Motivation plays a pivotal role in the key to success. Students should have achieved high marks in 9th grade Literature classes and standardized tests (RI, COGAT, ITBS, PSAT).



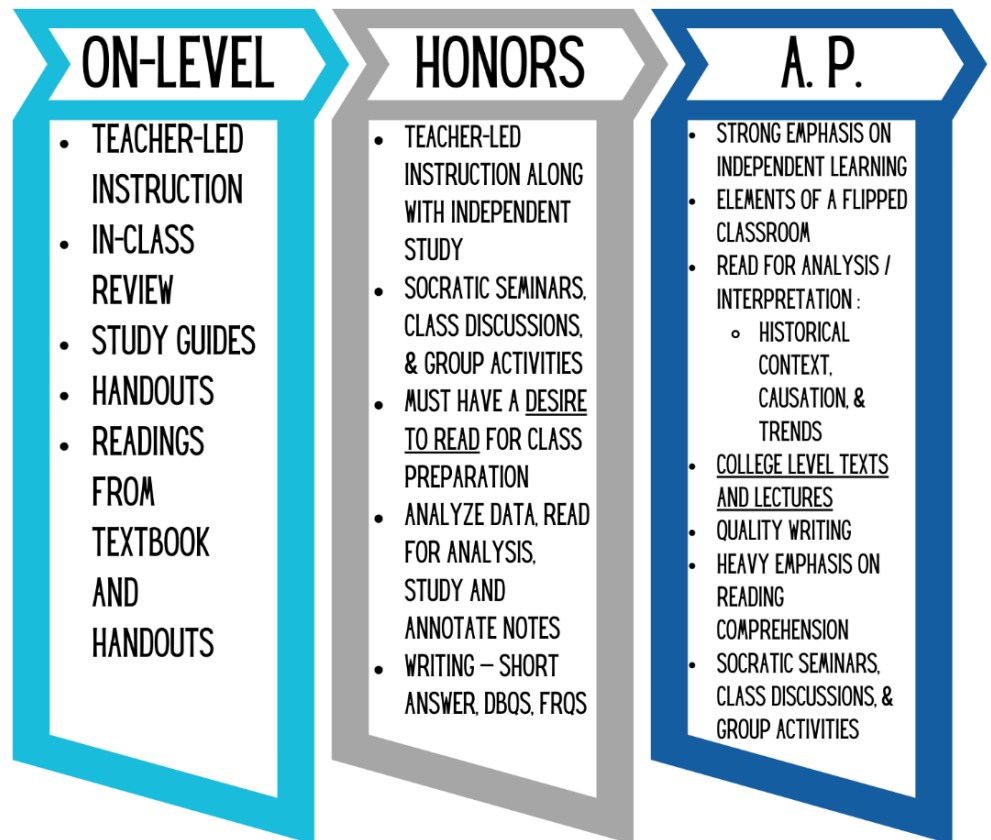
11th Grade Social Studies

On-level US will help students with study skills including reading and note-taking strategies by using a learning environment in which the teacher facilitates instruction. Teachers will walk you through history and help you understand the reasons why events happened in US History. Teachers will guide students in discussions about pivotal events in history and provide in-class review sessions and handouts to help students achieve success on unit exams and End of Course Exams.

Honors US History requires you to use your knowledge of US History to analyze people's perspectives through cartoons,

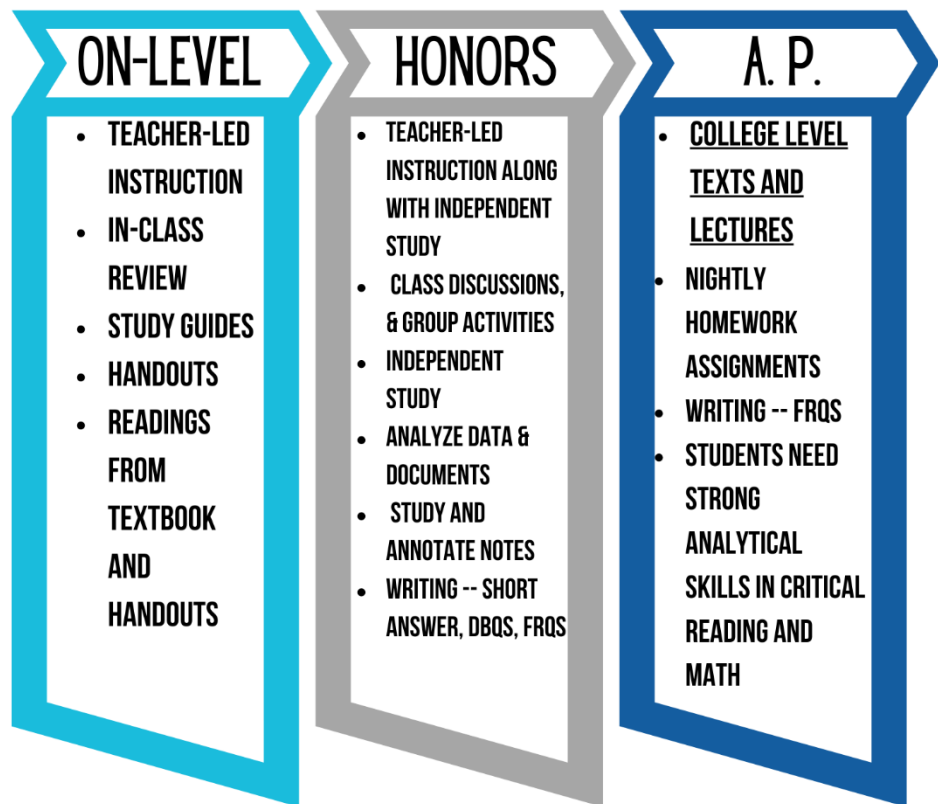
literature, speeches, and even statistics. The Honors' course blends teacher facilitated instructions with independent study in which students will share their perspectives and knowledge. You must have a **desire** to complete work started in class at home and assume responsibility for studying your notes. Remember, you have already learned how to take notes from your readings and class discussions, so your teachers will focus on skills helping you obtain deeper understanding of US History instead of just knowing basic US Historical Events. Furthermore, you will continue using writing strategies for Short Answer Questions, Document Based Essays, and Free Response Essays. Teachers will expect you to develop thesis statements, topic sentences, introductions, and conclusions as well as use specific factual information to support your claims in the body paragraphs.

AP US History requires Honors level skills as mentioned above using collegiate resources. The course promotes an atmosphere of intellectual discussion in which students share their thoughts & perspectives while creating their own theories under the mentorship of the teacher. Socratic Seminars and table discussions enable students to gain a deeper understanding of the subject by using Inquiry Design Models. As an independent learner, students will dissect the issues facing America from the 16th century through the 21st century by investigating historical causation, historical context, and historical trends influencing the social, political, and economic frameworks of America. Similar to Honors US History, motivation plays a pivotal role in the key to success.



12th Grade Social Studies

On-Level Government is a study of the local, state, and federal governmental functions. Citizenship rights and responsibilities are emphasized. Focus areas include development of our political systems, federalism, civil liberties, political parties, political theory, and comparative government. Also, the functions of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government will be studied.



Honors Government is a study of the local, state, and federal governmental functions. Citizenship rights and responsibilities are emphasized. Focus areas include development of our political systems, federalism, civil liberties, political parties, political theory, and comparative government. Also, the functions of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government will be studied. Students should display a strong work ethic, regular completion of assignments, and strong study skills. Students should be proficient in annotating independent readings and documents; preparing for and participating in different forms of class discussion based on outside readings; demonstrate proficiency in writing free response as well as document-based writings; possess a desire and readiness to challenge intellectual abilities using convergent and divergent thinking strategies.

AP Government is the equivalent of a one-semester college-level course. Designed to give students a critical perspective on government and politics in the United States, this course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret politics in the United States and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that make up the American political reality. AP Government and Politics is a cooperative educational endeavor of the College Entrance Examination Board. Students should expect to write frequently. Assessments will mirror the format of the AP Exam. This course meets the requirement for graduation.

On-Level Economics

This course is a study of fundamental concepts and essential elements of the market economic system in a problem/issues orientation. Focus areas include opportunity costs and scarcity, supply/demand analysis,

competitive markets, macroeconomics measurement, business cycles, inflation, unemployment, monetary and fiscal policies, and international trade.

Honors Economics

For students to be recommended to honors economics, they should display a strong work ethic, consistent completion of assignments, and a strong grasp of basic math skills. Students should display a strong work ethic, regular completion of assignments, and strong study skills. Students should be proficient in annotating independent readings and documents; preparing for and participating in different forms of class discussion based on outside readings; demonstrate proficiency in writing free response as well as document-based writings; possess a desire and readiness to challenge intellectual abilities using convergent and divergent thinking strategies.

AP Economics is the equivalent of a one-semester college-level course.

Students should show a history of being independent learners and have strong logic and math reasoning skills. Some evidence of this COULD include an 85 or above in advanced math classes, chemistry, and physics. Homework assignments will rarely be checked, so students must show a willingness to learn on their own. Strong writing skills are not necessary, but students should be able to write short essays and defend arguments.

AP Microeconomics Description

AP Micro is the small picture in economics. It covers individual decisions (your decision to buy a car and the price you are willing to pay), individual businesses (Ford's decision to produce and price a car and their costs, revenues, and profits from selling a car), and individual markets (the supply and demand of cars). It also covers when markets fail to give the most efficient outcomes and how governments can possibly fix this.

AP Macroeconomics Description

AP Macro is the big picture in economics. It covers all individuals, businesses, and markets at once. Instead of looking at your decision to get a job (Micro concept), it looks at all jobs combined (unemployment). Instead of looking at the price of one good (Micro concept), it looks at the price of all goods (inflation). Instead of looking at the production of one good (Micro concept), it looks at the production of all goods (economic growth). Macro also covers the financial system and interest rates for loans and savings and government decisions on spending and taxes.