

SOCIAL STUDIES

Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, the Social Studies department will reorganize the course sequence in order to create opportunities for students to increase their knowledge and understanding of modern history and contemporary global concerns.

Sequence Break-down	2020– 2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Freshmen	US History	US History	US History	US History
Sophomore	Govt./US History I	World History	World History	World History
Juniors	US History II or AP USH	US History II or AP USH	United States Government and Global Politics	United States Government and Global Politics
Seniors	Electives: Global Issues AP Psych	Electives: Global Issues AP Psych Baltimore: A study of a historical and contemporary legal and social policy	Electives: Global Issues AP Psych Baltimore: A study of a historical and contemporary legal and social policy	

United States History* **Credit: 1.00** **Year** **F**

U.S. History is a year-long course designed to prepare students to be active, responsible individuals by developing their ability to analyze and evaluate diverse sources of information as well as growing their understanding of the past 150 years of United States history. More specifically, the course will explore social, political, and economic trends in the United States from the Civil War to 2001, returning repeatedly to the themes of continuity and change, conflict and compromise, and the evolving rights and responsibilities of members of society.

American Government* **Credit: 0.50 Semester 1 SO**

This one-semester course is a study of the U.S. federal system. Students briefly review the early pre-constitutional political history of the country, explore the Constitution and key amendments, and learn about the three branches of the federal government. Students develop an understanding of the responsibilities of United States citizens and they learn to understand and analyze current events.

U.S. History I: Federalism to Reconstruction*** **Credit: 0.50 Semester 2 SO**

U.S. History to World War I is a one-semester survey course that examines the early history of the United States beginning with the administrations of Washington, Adams and Jefferson. Progressing chronologically, students examine the causes and effects of key events and the social, political and economic conditions that prevailed throughout the 19th Century. The influences and contributions of women, minorities and religious groups are integrated throughout the course. The Honors section of this course prepares students to take the AP U.S. History Exam at the end of their junior year.

U.S. History II: Industrialization to the Present*** **Credit: 1.00 Year J**

Twentieth Century U.S. History is a year-long survey course designed to acquaint students with the history of the United States from the end of the 19th Century to the present. Progressing chronologically, students examine the causes and effects of key events, movements and turning points of the Twentieth Century. The influences and contributions of women, minorities and religious groups are stressed. Environmental issues and the role of the nation in the global community are integrated throughout the course. The Honors/AP section of this course prepares students to take the AP U.S. History Exam at the end of the junior year.

Global Issues **Credit: 1.00 Year J/S**

This year-long course challenges students to explore global trends in the 21st Century from multiple perspectives. Through the use of case studies and current events, students will analyze such topics as globalization, conflict, population growth, resource scarcity and waste issues in order to identify sustainable solutions to these increasingly common problems. This course will look at the role the United Nations and other governmental and non-governmental organizations play in the development and protection of human rights. Students will examine their personal cultural identity while gaining an appreciation for both Western and non-Western cultures and perspectives. Students also learn to recognize their own roles in creating and preventing some of these current and future problems.

* Honors section offered

*** Honors/AP section offered

AP Psychology **Credit: 1.00** **Year** **J/S**

This course stresses reading, writing and critical thinking within the context of scientific methodology and questioning. It is the equivalent of a college-level introductory psychology course. Students will be introduced to the major topical areas of psychology by studying core concepts and theories and applying relevant vocabulary. A year-long research project relating to adolescence will be a major focus of the course. Preparation for the AP exam is ongoing. *Prerequisites: A or A- at semester in English III and U.S. History II or PSAT verbal score of .50 or higher.*

WORLD LANGUAGES

At Mercy High School students are required to take two consecutive years of the same language, either French or Spanish. Students are encouraged, but not required, to take a world language each year. If a student's mother tongue is one other than English, and they have attended at least one year at an academic institution in which instruction in the language other than English has occurred, the student is exempt from the world language requirement.

French I **Credit: 1.00** **Year** **F**

Students practice listening, speaking, reading and writing French. Emphasis is placed on correct pronunciation, acquiring vocabulary, and understanding grammar. Students are introduced to an overview of the geographic, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the contemporary French-speaking world. The course is complemented by a series of video programs, online resources, CDs, DVDs, and TV-5.

French II **Credit: 1.00** **Year** **SO**

This course is an extension of French I; students review the vocabulary and structure previously learned. They become proficient in listening, speaking, reading, and writing the language, extending their vocabulary base and studying new grammar. In addition, the history and culture of French speaking countries will be studied. This course is complemented by a series of video programs, online resources, CDs, DVDs, and TV-5. *Prerequisites: French I.*

French III (H) **Credit: 1.00** **Year** **J**

Oral comprehension, speaking, reading and writing are emphasized in the context of new elements of grammar and culture. Readings are based on the history and culture of Francophone countries. This course is complemented by a series of video presentations and TV-5, and online resources. *Prerequisites: A final grade of C or better in French II and teacher approval.*