

BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The knowledge of history is essential in forming American citizens. Social Studies has as its central objective the creation of complete students who develop into:

- ❖ Loyal citizens who understand and empathize with their cultural past;
- ❖ Wise voters who can make sound decisions based on knowledge of their past;
- ❖ Good neighbors who tolerate and appreciate different abilities and interests;
- ❖ Well-rounded individuals who understand and appreciate the intellectual productions of their past.

Civics

Grade 9

CP

Civic education is essential for active participation by informed citizens. Students will explore the structure of the federal government, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution, and the organization of state and local governments. They learn the basics of the American free enterprise system and United States foreign policy. Each of the five units--U.S. Geography, Citizenship, National Government, State and Local Government, and Economics of Free Enterprise--contains an in-depth section where the student investigates a specific incident or issue tied to the unit theme.

World Cultures

Grade 10

CP

Honors

Prerequisite for Honors: Average of 95% in Civics, 93% in English, and department recommendation. A summer project will be assigned.

World Cultures helps students learn more about themselves by learning about others. The lands and peoples of the western world are the focus of the course. Students study the geography, history, and ways of life of these people and how they fit into the global society of the 21st century.

AP World History

Grade 10

Advanced Placement

Prerequisite: This course is open to 10th grade students who have 97% in Civics, 93% in English, the recommendation of their 9th grade teacher, and the recommendation of the department chair. The course begins with "from 8000 BCE" and ends in the present day. An extensive summer project is mandatory. All students taking this course are required to take the AP World History Examination.

Modern American History Grade 11

CP

Honors Prerequisite for Honors: Current

average of 93% in Honors or 95% in CP World Cultures, 93% in English, and department recommendation. A summer project will be assigned. This is a survey of American History since Reconstruction. Emphasizes the emergence and growth of the United States as a world power. The growing role and responsibility of the citizen as a force in determining the future of the nation as it is confronted by the challenges of the 21st century are the focus of the course.

AP United States History

Grade 11

Advanced Placement

Prerequisite: Minimum of 95% in College Prep World Cultures or 93%-Honors World Cultures or AP World History, a general average of 93% in English, and department head approval. This class may be offered as Dual Credit. United States History encompasses the social, political, economic and cultural life of the United States. It includes the study of events, movements, and people who shaped or changed the history of our country. In addition to the more traditional

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historic content, the course introduces the student to a wide range of historical materials and methods of study. All students taking this course are required to take the AP United States History Examination.

AP United States Government Grade 12 Advanced Placement & Politics

Prerequisite: Minimum of 95%-College Prep or 93%-Honors in Modern American History, a general average of 93% in English, and department head approval. This class may be offered as Dual Credit. The Advanced Placement course in United States Government and Politics is designed to give students a critical perspective on politics and government. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret United States politics and an examination of the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that make up American politics. The course is taught with college-level texts. Preparation for the A.P. test will be an integral part of the course. All students taking this course are required to take the AP United States Government and Politics Examination.

Citizen and The Law Grade 11, 12 College Prep

This course will provide students with an introduction and overview of the system of criminal justice operated in the United States today. Beginning with a survey of the sources, philosophies, and role of law in society, this course will provide a brief examination of those factors that distinguish civil, criminal and social justice from one another. Students will also explore important cases that helped to establish the freedoms that Americans now enjoy.

Introduction to Psychology Grade 11, 12 College Prep

Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior and mental states. In this course, students may study human development, intelligence, personality theory, abnormal behavior, therapeutic intervention and applied psychology. Through lectures, discussions, class exercises, film, assignments and examinations the students become familiar with the fundamentals of psychology.

AP Western European History Grade 12 Advanced Placement

Prerequisite: Minimum of 95%-College Prep or 93%-Honors in Modern American History, a general average of 93% in English, and department head approval. Modern European History encompasses the social, political, economic and cultural life of European nations from the 15th century to the present. It includes the study of events, movements, and people who shaped or changed human history. In addition to the more traditional historic content, the course introduces the student to a wide range of historical materials and methods of study. All students taking this course are required to take the AP European History Examination.

WWII & Holocaust Grade 11, 12 College Prep

This is a two-part course about two topics that changed the course of the 20th century. The first semester, WWII, will cover the rise of Adolf Hitler and the beginning of WWII to its conclusion. There will be particular emphasis on U.S. involvement during the war. Second semester, in the Holocaust portion, students will learn about the causes, stages and impact of the Holocaust. The purpose of this study is to understand the roots of prejudice, the acceptance of diversity, the dangers of silence and apathy, the use and abuse of power, and how democratic institutions need to be nurtured and sustained.

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