Wachusett Regional High School

2019-2020 Educational Guide
## Social Studies Program of Studies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>MCAS</th>
<th>Teacher Recommendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World History II</td>
<td>Honors</td>
<td>A- or better</td>
<td>&gt;520</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPA</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>&gt;500</td>
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<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP</td>
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<td>&lt;499</td>
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<td>Honors</td>
<td>Hon World History C+ OR CPA World History B</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>CPA</td>
<td>CPA World History B OR CP World History C+</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP</td>
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**Social Studies Sequence of Courses:** Grade 9, World History 2; Grade 10, U.S. History 1; Grade 11, U.S. History 2; Grade 12, social studies electives.

**Advanced Sequence:** For advanced history students, an advanced history sequence is available: Grade 9, Honors World History 2; Grade 10, AP World History; Grade 11, AP US History; Grade 12, various Advanced Placement electives.

Students must earn 15 credits in Social Studies to graduate. Ten of these social studies credits must come in U.S. History (unless a student completes both AP World and AP US History).
Social Studies Department Writing Standard

The WRHS Social Studies Department requires students in all grades and levels to demonstrate research and writing competencies at an acceptable level. Each course in the Social Studies Department will require students to successfully complete a research paper, a position paper, or a project sometime during the year.

Social Studies Description of Levels

Honors: Students at the Honors level will be expected to read scholarly documents and texts for understanding, inference, and context. They will analyze and synthesize information to reach conclusions and formulate and defend positions on a variety of topics. They will perform extensive independent work and will be expected to read and write at a consistently high level. They will write papers and essays that incorporate independent research and will complete other research projects. They will be expected to complete regular homework assignments as reinforcement and enrichment of classroom lessons. Students at the honors level receive an accelerated curriculum that will allow them to make an immediate transition to advanced college work.

College Prep - Accelerated: Students at the CPA level will be expected to read primary sources and scholarly material. They will write with coherence and organization as they create papers and essays that incorporate independent research. They will complete other research projects that involve independent work. They will be expected to complete regular homework assignments as reinforcement and enrichment of classroom lessons. Students at the CPA level will receive a solid foundation of knowledge that will allow them to make a seamless transition to a college or university.

College Prep: Students at the college prep level will be expected to read primary source material and social studies texts. They will write papers and essays that incorporate research material, and they will complete other research projects under the guidance of their teacher. They will be expected to complete regular homework assignments as reinforcement and enrichment of classroom lessons. Students at the CP level will expand their knowledge in social studies subject areas as they develop the skills necessary for success at the college level.

Lower School Program

World History

World History II (H, CPA, CP; Grade 9) 5 Credits (Full year)
This course follows World History 1, which students take in the eighth grade. In World History 2, students study the rise of the nation state in Europe, revolutions in the Atlantic world, and the economic and political roots of the modern world. They study the origins and consequences of the Industrial Revolution, 19th-century political reform in Western Europe, and imperialism in Africa, Asia, and South America. They will examine the causes and consequences of the great military and economic events of the past century, including World War I, the rise of totalitarianism, World War II, the Cold War, and the Russian and Chinese revolutions. Finally, students will study the rise of nationalism and the continuing persistence of political, ethnic, and religious conflict in many parts of the world.

Lower School / Upper School Options

World History II (Grades 9-12) 5 credits
This course spans the time periods from 1815 to the present and covers World Revolutions, Imperialism, World Wars, Cold War, independence movements and the world today. Emphasis will be on how world events affect our country. Class activities will include map-making, research projects and timelines.
Basic World History II (Grades 9-10) 5 credits
This is an introductory course to World History. Students investigate the economic and political roots of the modern world. Students study the cause and effect relationships among several significant historical events and eras. Note to students who plan to play sports in college: The NCAA has not approved this class as a core course requirement.

United States History

United States History I (H, CPA, CP; Grade 10) 5 credits (Full year)
This course surveys major developments in American history from the Revolutionary era to the end of the 19th Century. Students will examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States during the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. They will study the framework of American democracy and the basic concepts of American government, such as popular sovereignty, federalism, establishment of political parties, and economic and social change. Finally, students will learn about the growth of sectional conflict leading to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War through the Gilded Age. Students will read primary source documents, perform authentic research, and complete research papers and other assignments.

United States History I (Grade 10) 5 credits
This course will cover the major developments in the country’s history from the first Americans and the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction. Students will study the historical significance of events in this time period as well as the basic concepts of American government and democracy. Emphasis will be on our government and how it affects our lives. Varied activities will include map-making, projects, time lines, field trips and individual reports.

Upper School Program

United States History

United States History II (H, CPA, CP; Grades 11-12) 5 Credits (Full year)
In this course, which completes the two-year U.S. History cycle, students will study the historical and intellectual origins of the modern United States. Students will learn the causes and consequences of the United States’ emergence on the world stage. Students will examine the influence of Progressive thought on American government and politics. The world wars and the interwar period as well as the effects these major wars had on America will be a major focus of the course. After learning about the world wars, students study the origins, ideas, and events of the Cold War and its impact both domestically and internationally. Students will probe the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam and other modern trends that have shaped America. The course will conclude with a study of 9/11 and contemporary issues and how these events have shaped the conditions in modern America. As in U.S. History 1, students will read primary source documents to improve their understanding of history, to perform authentic research, and to complete research papers and other assignments.

United States History II (Grade 11) 5 Credits
This course introduces students to the major events, movements, people, and ideas which have shaped the growth of our country from Reconstruction to the present. The objective of the class is for the student to develop an appreciation of our country while understanding its growth and development. Students will use texts, discussion, maps, and timelines in this study.
Advanced Placement United States History (AP, Grades 11-12) 5 credits (Full Year)
Using college textbooks and reading materials, students study the history of the United States from 1607 to the present; in addition, they consider changing interpretations of historical periods. This course is based on the College Board expectations:

"AP U.S. History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university U.S. history course. In AP U.S. History students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; making historical comparisons; utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time; and developing historical arguments. The course also provides seven themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society." – The College Board, 2018

It is expected all students will take the AP U.S. History exam in the spring. A student who successfully passes this examination may be given credit or be released from a required course by the college of her/his choice.

Full-Year Elective Courses

Civics for the 21st Century (CP, Grades 11-12) 5 credits
In this course students will actively investigate the rights and duties of citizenship in the United States in the 21st century. The focus of this class will be on the students themselves and how they, as citizens, can affect local, state, and national governments. The course will feature hands-on activities; connections to current local, state, and national issues; and service learning.

Advanced Placement Economics (AP, Grade 12) 5 credits
This course is subdivided into two courses – AP Macroeconomics in the first semester and AP Microeconomics in the second semester. This coincides with preparing students for the two separate AP Economics exams in the spring. AP Macroeconomics gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. This course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and also develops students’ familiarity with economics performance measures, economics growth, and international economics. AP Microeconomics provides a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy.

Advanced Placement European History (AP, Grade 12) 5 credits
This course is an intensive study of Western and non-Western history from 1450 to the present. Students will use college texts and primary and secondary source materials. Students will write responses to document-based questions, research papers and analytical papers, and learn strategies for taking the AP European History examination. Students who take this class are expected to take the AP European History exam in the spring.

Advanced Placement Psychology (AP, Grade 12) 5 credits
Advanced Placement Psychology introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields within psychology. They also learn about the methods that psychologists use in their science and practice. The content of the course includes the biological base of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, motivation and emotion, personality, and abnormal psychology. Students who take this class are expected to take the AP Psychology exam in the spring.
Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics (AP, Grade 12) 5 credits
This course gives students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples. It requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics. Topics: “Constitutional Underpinnings of U.S. Government;” “Political Beliefs and Behaviors;” “Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media;” “Institutions of National Government;” “Political Policy;” and “Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.” Students who take this course will be expected to take the AP exam in May.

Advanced Placement World History (AP, Grade 10 or Grade 12) 5 Credits
This course is a comprehensive study of World History from the beginning of civilization to the present. First semester includes the study of historical events from early civilizations to 1750; second semester includes the study of historical events from 1750 to 2000. Using college textbooks and primary and secondary sources, students study the world by an analysis of events and /or people causing change. Students must complete a required summer assignment before the class begins. Students are expected to take the AP World History exam in the spring. A student who successfully passes this exam may be given college credit or excused from a required course.

Semester Elective Courses
Offered Both Semesters

Social Studies Seminar: Topics in Ethics (CPA, Grades 11-12) 2½ credits
Not offered in 2019-2020
Ethics deals with examining right from wrong, good from bad. This course will engage students in exploring and measuring their own ethical value system in the context of studying historical and contemporary problems. During debates, discussions, research-based essays, and other critical thinking activities, students will explore the nature of good and evil, vice and virtue, truth and deceit.

U.S. Government and Politics (CPA, Grades 11 & 12) 2½ credits
This course provides a framework for students to understand the nature and importance of responsible civic participation and to learn the rights and responsibilities of individuals in a constitutional democracy. Students will examine the history of political philosophies that evolved into today’s political and legal systems and will explore this country’s constitutional structure and the processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches at the national, state, and local levels. Finally, students will explore their ability to influence policies and decisions as individuals and in groups and will develop the knowledge and inquiry skills to help them understand, preserve, and improve our constitutional democracy.

Offered First Semester

Concepts in Economics I (CPA, CP; Grades 11-12) 2½ credits
Throughout the fall semester, students will explore the essential economic-based concepts found in everyday adult life. Through extensive use of collaborative learning and hands-on activities, students will discover and demonstrate these concepts in class. Topics for the Fall Semester will include: Behavioral vs. Classical Economic Theory; Everyday Use of Economic Laws & Principles; Consumer Behavior and Practices, Regional Economic Development and The Economics Behind Small Business. This is a very interactive and project-based elective for juniors and seniors. Students may elect to continue this course in the spring semester with Concepts in Economics II.

Psychology I: Study of Human Behavior (H, CPA, CP; Grade 12 only) 2½ credits
This course is an introduction to the field of psychology. Students study differing psychological approaches, theories, and theorists. Students investigate such issues as the biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, principles of learning, and theories of human development. Each student examines herself or himself through the theories of Pavlov, Skinner, Freud, Erickson and other theorists in an attempt to answer the question 'Who Am I?' The activities, materials and requirements will vary according to level. Honors level students will complete a comprehensive research project.
Offered Second Semester

**Concepts in Economics II (CPA, CP; Grades 11-12)** 2½ credits
Throughout the spring semester, students will explore the essential economic-based concepts found in everyday adult life. Through extensive use of collaborative learning and hands-on activities, students will discover and demonstrate these concepts in class. The Spring Semester will explore topics such as: The 2008 Real Estate Collapse & Housing Market; Personal Budgeting for Young Adults; Essential Lessons on Taxation & Insurance; Popular Government Economic Policies; and Current Economic Issues in the U.S. (ex. environmental, minimum wage, gender equity, trade wars). This is a very interactive and project-based elective for juniors and seniors.

**Contemporary American Culture (H/CPA; Grades 11–12)** 2½ credits
An interdisciplinary course that examines recent trends in American culture as they are manifest in the arts and the social sciences. Economics, sociology and political science are joined with the study of contemporary literature, art, and music to give students a better understanding of the world in which they live. This course is offered for either English or Social Studies credit.

**Human Behavior (CP; Grade 12)** 2½ credits (Students may not take Human Behavior along with Psychology 2 and/or Sociology)
This course explores topics in both psychology and sociology. Possible topics of exploration include socialization, human development, culture, consciousness, and gender. This course is open for students who took Psychology I as well as for students who have not studied psychology.

**Psychology II: Study of Exceptional Persons (H, CPA; Grade 12 only)** 2½ credits (Pre-requisite: Psychology 1)
This course allows students to continue their study of psychology. Students extend their study of human development and are introduced to personality theory. Additional possible topics to be studied include altered states of consciousness, motivation theory and psychological disorders. The activities, materials and requirements will vary according to level. Honors level students will complete a comprehensive research project.

**Sociology (CPA; Grade 12)** 2½ credits
Students study society at large and their participation in it. Topics included growing up in other cultures, causes of alienation, crime and deviance, sex and gender, race and ethnicity, effects of social stratification, socialization, and institutions of society on the individual. Students use a wide variety of materials and engage in independent and group research.