

SOCIAL STUDIES

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: 3 years (including World History & US History)			
Freshmen	Sophomores Required:	Juniors Required:	Seniors Required:
	World History & Geography	U.S. History or AP U.S. History or American Studies: History	Economics & Government or AP Economics (Micro & Macro) or AP Government (American & Comparative)

The Social Studies Department at Saint Thomas Academy designs its courses to provide a challenging learning environment that promotes academic excellence and recognizes the unique abilities of each student. The Social Studies Department expects each student to:

- Develop the ability to connect the past and the present by applying methods of historical research; use a variety of sources to demonstrate cause and effect relationships in history.
- Acquire geographical skills and understand and apply the main themes of geographic analysis.
- Acquire economic literacy and apply it to U.S. and world economic institutions in order to be an effective citizen and to enhance personal economic decision-making.
- Acquire political literacy in order to be able to participate effectively in the U.S. democratic process.
- Be able to evaluate controversial issues and apply this knowledge through debates and other methods of presentation (both written and verbal).
- Develop a multicultural awareness and sensitivity, recognizing that judgments about people of different cultures are usually shaped and influenced by the standards and values of the culture in which one lives.
- Develop the competency to acquire, organize, evaluate, and report information for the purposes of solving problems and clarifying issues.

WORLD HISTORY and GEOGRAPHY 1 year
Grade Level: 10 Weight: 1.0

World History is a year-long survey of the record of the human experience from the development of early civilizations to the major crises and accomplishments of the Twentieth Century. World geography and current events are included in the curriculum of this class. All sophomores write a research paper on the World History topic of their choice. This is done in conjunction with their English class as part of the History Day competition.

U.S. HISTORY 1 year
Grade Level: 11 Weight: 1.0

U.S. History is a year-long survey course beginning with the Revolutionary period and ending with the Vietnam War era. The student will explore the forces and individuals that played key roles in the development of the U.S. and examine the causes of the main events in American history. All juniors participate in the History Day competition using a U.S. History topic of their choice.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

U.S. HISTORY

Grade Level: 11

1 year

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: 3.4 GPA and sophomore teacher approval.

This course is a college-level survey of U.S. history. Students will combine secondary texts and primary sources to analyze the cause and effect relationships between people, events, and circumstances from the era of colonization to the present. All juniors participate in the History Day competition using a U.S. History topic of their choice. **Weight changes to 1.1 if student does not take the AP exam.**

AMERICAN STUDIES: HISTORY

Grade Level: 11

1 year

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Students must also register for American Studies: English & American Studies: Art.

The history component of the American Studies course is designed to place the history of the United States into a cultural context. The major events and people will be examined in terms of their cultural significance during the time, as well as in terms of their lasting impact. Primary source materials including music, literature, and art will be blended with textbooks and supplemental readings to provide a wide range of opinions on historical events. All juniors participate in the History Day competition using a U.S. History topic of their choice.

ECONOMICS & GOVERNMENT

Grade Level: 12

1 year

Weight: 1.0

One semester of this course is devoted to the fundamentals of microeconomics and macroeconomics. The other semester introduces students to American government, law, politics, and civics.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ECONOMICS (MICRO & MACRO)

Grade Level: 12

1 year

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: 3.25 GPA and/or department approval.

Students must register for both Micro and Macro Economics.

Advanced Placement Microeconomics

1st Semester

This course is a college-level introduction to microeconomics. Topics include supply and demand, production and market structure, and factor markets. Students should be comfortable working with graphs. **Weight changes to 1.1 if student does not take the AP exam.**

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics

2nd Semester

This course is a college-level introduction to macroeconomics. Topics include inflation, unemployment, taxation, and money supply. Students should be comfortable working with graphs. **Weight changes to 1.1 if student does not take the AP exam.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT GOVERNMENT (AMERICAN & COMPARATIVE)

Grade Level: 12

1 year

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: 3.25 GPA and teacher approval.

This course provides a college-level introduction to political theory and political science. Topics include branches of government, interest groups, elections, parties, and bureaucracy. Special projects focus on lawmaking, major court cases, and political action. Slightly over one semester is devoted to American government and the remainder of the year to comparative (international) government. Students completing the course will be prepared for both AP government exams. **Weight changes to 1.1 if student does not take the AP exam.**