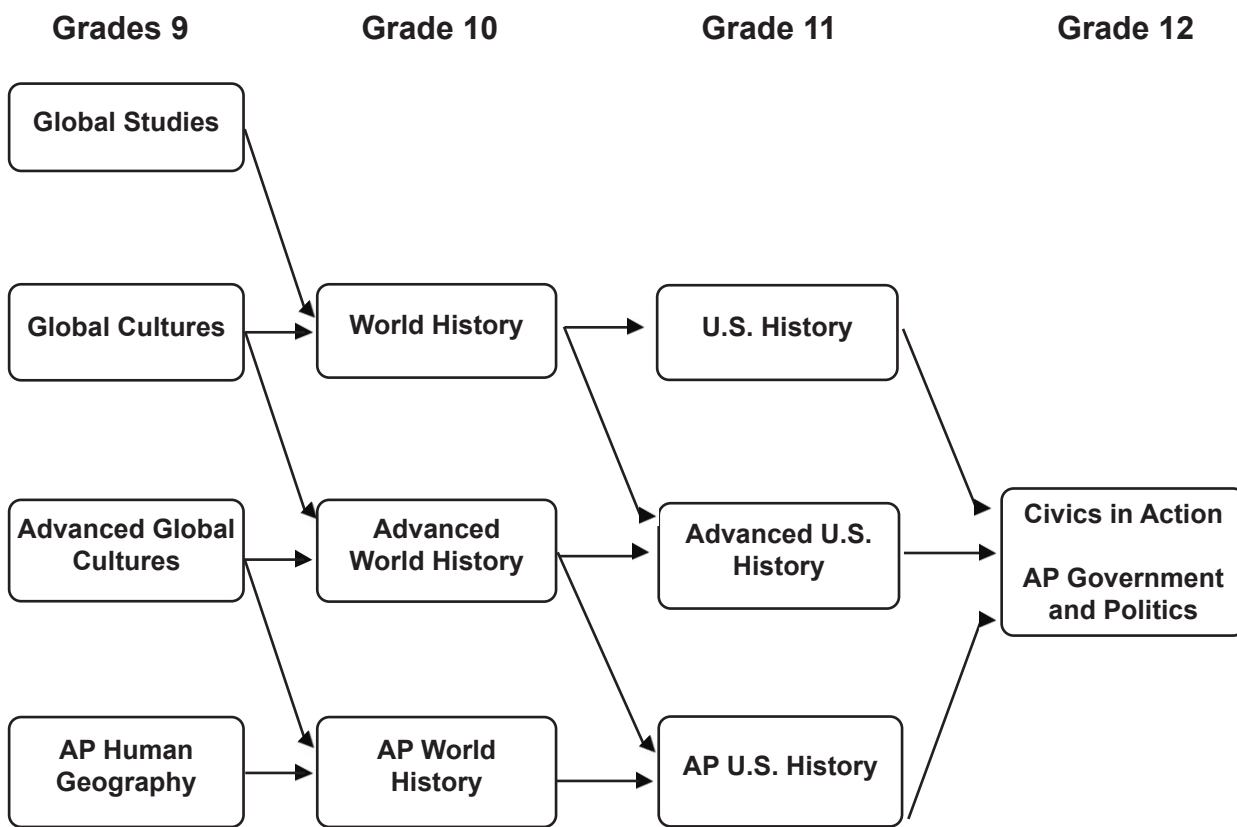




Social Studies



Possible Sequences for Social Studies



- Social Studies Electives**
- Contemporary Issues
 - History of Chicago
 - Criminal Justice and Law
 - Psychology
 - Sociology
 - AP European History
 - AP Government and Politics
 - AP Psychology

GLOBAL STUDIES

Grade 9

full year

Prerequisite: 9th-grade placement test scores, reading scores and teacher recommendation This class was designed to combine Written and Oral Communication and Social Studies Global Cultures for regular freshman students. The course will explore contemporary issues in both areas of study while developing essential learning skills. These skills will include college-level reading, maps and graphs, note taking, test taking, research skills, grammar, vocabulary, and composition.

GLOBAL CULTURES

Grade 9

full year

Prerequisite: 9th-grade placement test scores and teacher recommendation

Global Cultures is a broad-based social studies course that introduces students to the political, economic, cultural, and geographical aspects of history. Students integrate college-level reading with maps, graphs and other spatial data sets to conduct analyses, apply models, and draw conclusions. In addition, students begin the course by developing essential interdisciplinary learning skills that will assist them throughout all courses. Specifically, the learning skills will incorporate comprehensive reading, note taking, test taking, research, and documentation skills. Lastly, information literacy will address plagiarism, proper citation, and web etiquette.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Grade 9

full year

Prerequisite: 9th-grade placement test scores and teacher recommendation

The purpose of the Advanced Placement course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of our world. Students employ geographical/spatial concepts and tools to analyze topics such as human population movement and organization, cultural patterns and processes, political organization, agricultural and rural land use, industrialization and economic development, and city and urban land use. Students will integrate college-level reading with maps, graphs and other spatial data sets to conduct analyses, apply models, and draw conclusions. In addition, students will begin the course by developing essential learning skills that will assist them throughout all courses. Specifically, the learning skills will incorporate comprehensive reading, note taking, test taking, research, and documentation skills. Lastly, information literacy will be addressing plagiarism and web skills. Students who enroll in this course are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

WORLD HISTORY

Grade 10

full year

Prerequisite: Advanced Global Cultures and/or teacher recommendation

World History gives students the opportunity to visit the past, connect with the present, and look to the future. Students will join others in the exploration of ancient and modern civilizations, their impact, and their contributions to today's global society. The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand their connections to the development of civilizations by examining the past to prepare for their future as participating members of a global community. Students will use knowledge pertaining to history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to solve problems in academic, civic, social, and employment settings. This course also emphasizes the development of essential learning skills that students will need in future social studies courses. Specifically, the learning skills will incorporate comprehensive reading, note taking, test taking, research, and documentation skills. World History is required to graduate.



AP WORLD HISTORY

Grade 10

full year

Prerequisite: Advanced Placement Human Geography and/or teacher recommendation

The purpose of the AP World History course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in different types of human societies. The course highlights the nature of changes in human history and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. This course will follow a chronological framework in order to organize material covering approximately 10,000 years of history. It emphasizes relevant factual knowledge, leading interpretive issues, and skills in analyzing different types of historical evidence. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. Students will integrate college-level reading with maps, graphs and other spatial data sets to conduct analyses, apply models, and draw conclusions. In addition, students will focus on continuing to develop essential learning skills that will assist them throughout all courses. Specifically, the learning skills will incorporate comprehensive reading, note taking, test taking, research, and documentation skills. Students who enroll in this course are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

U.S. HISTORY

Grade 11

full year

Prerequisite: None

In the first semester of U.S. History, students study 18th and 19th century America from the settlement of the colonies to the beginnings of industrial development. The course focuses on various historical topics, the evolution of the U.S. system of government, westward expansion, and the development of political parties. The second semester of U.S. History continues the study of American history. Beginning in the 1890's, this course focuses on American foreign policy from the Spanish-American War to the Persian gulf crisis; major economic developments from industrialization to current economic challenges; major social movements from the Progressive Era to the Civil Rights movement; and many other topics that will help students understand twentieth century America. U.S. History is required for graduation.

ADVANCED U.S. HISTORY

Grade 11

full year

Prerequisite: Advanced World History and/or teacher recommendation

This course provides an in-depth study of American history. First semester units of study begin with the settlement of the colonies and end with the industrial development of America. Special emphasis is given to the foundations of the U.S. system of government, the expansion of American territory, the Civil War, American foreign policy issues during the 19th century and major economic developments including industrialization. The second semester units of study focus on American history during the 20th century. Special emphasis is given to major social movements, American foreign policy topics including two world wars, economic challenges and developments, and many other topics that will help students to better understand twentieth century America. As with other advanced social studies courses, Advanced U.S. History offers students more choices for independent work, expanded assignment options, and the opportunity to participate in seminar discussions on a regular basis. Satisfactory completion of Advanced U.S. History meets the Lake Park graduation requirement.

AP U.S. HISTORY

Grades 11-12

full year

Prerequisite: Any Student who is willing and motivated to learn about United States History at a collegiate level and pace is encouraged to enroll.

The Advanced Placement program in U.S. history is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal with problems and materials in American history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced level college courses by making demands on them equivalent to those of full-year introductory college courses. Students will learn to assess historical materials, their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance, and weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical writings. This course develops the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present ideas clearly and persuasively in an essay format. One of the final activities of the course is taking the Advanced Placement examination in U.S. history.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Grades 11-12

1 semester

Prerequisite: None

Contemporary Issues is different from any other high school course you will ever take. It is unique in that there is no specific textbook and no set of specific issues that must be covered. This is a class that is extremely dependent upon your participation. Your interest can help determine what topics we cover and how much emphasis we place upon them.

In Contemporary Issues, students discuss key local, national, and global issues. Past student topics have been: crime, discrimination, wealth in America, addiction, technological advancements, pop culture, and many other relevant topics. Other course topics are determined by current developments. Since students tend to be seniors, with some juniors, we also make sure to spend a lot of time talking about topics related to what happens right after high school. This class is built around the interests of the students in the class and the relationships built throughout the semester.

HISTORY OF CHICAGO

Grade 11-12

1 semester

Prerequisite: None

Chicago History is designed to be different from most other high school courses. Using student's interests in local history pushes the curriculum to change from semester to semester. Students will be able to study a wide range of topics that are focused around Chicago history. With no specific textbook to study these topics, students will use newspaper articles, textbook excerpts, and first-hand experiences. These first-hand experiences will be based on our ability to pull outside resources from the city. Having the city in our backyard will allow students to see its culture with their own eyes.

Areas of study include gangsters, the entertainment district, prohibition, Chicago fire, Resurrection Mary, Eastland disaster, Our Lady of the Angels fire, 1919 race riots, Cabrini Green, blues music, Black Sox scandal, Iroquois theater fire, and many other topics that have influenced our city and its history,



CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW

Grades 11-12

1 semester

Prerequisite: None

Criminal Justice and Law focuses on the criminal legal system and the criminal justice process. The curriculum covers a variety of topics that include learning about types of crimes committed (homicide/murder, arson, robbery, theft, kidnapping, assault, etc.) through the process of the legal system. This includes the investigation, trial, sentencing, and corrections system. Students will look at real life examples of crimes to learn more about these aspects of criminal justice. Students also get to help with choosing topics and cases based on their unique interests. Learn why we have laws, the responsibilities of law enforcement, and the rights of those accused and convicted of crimes. Mock murder trials are held in which students get to assume the roles of different individuals in the courtroom and simulate real trials.

PSYCHOLOGY

Grades 11-12

1 semester

Prerequisite: 1 year of social studies

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students learn to think critically about such topics as how to process information, how learning affects our thinking and behavior, the influences on how we develop and change throughout our lives, the power of social influences, the mind-body-connection, and what can lead to mental disorders. Typical class activities may include the creation of a candy brain, demonstrations of memory and study techniques, and hands-on presentations of how we learn behavior. The course focuses on how psychological principles apply to students' lives and the world around them. Psychology can be taken either junior or senior year. This semester course can serve as an excellent introduction to Advanced Placement Psychology.

SOCIOLOGY

Grades 11-12

1 semester

Prerequisite: 1 year of social studies

Sociology is the study of society and social behavior. It provides an excellent basic education for various occupations and professions for society today. Sociology can provide a rich fund of knowledge and many distinctive ways of looking at the world to generate new ideas and assess the old ones. This survey course examines how various groups interact with society as well as demonstrates the effect it has on people who live in society. Students learn to think critically about society on topics such as socialization, social institutions, culture and diversity, gender roles, deviance and social control, and social inequality. Students interested in the fields of criminal justice, social service, or communications are encouraged to enroll.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

Grade 11-12

full year

Prerequisite: Any Student who is willing and motivated to learn about European History at a collegiate level and pace is encouraged to enroll.

Advanced Placement European History provides an in-depth study of European history from the fall of Rome to modern times. The AP European History program is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge needed to deal with advanced topics and issues in European history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced level college courses by making demands on them equivalent to those of full year introductory college courses. Students will learn to assess historical materials, their relevance, reliability and importance to a given interpretive problem, and weigh evidence and interpretations of historical writings.

The AP European History course also develops the skills needed to arrive at conclusions based on informed judgments and to present ideas clearly and persuasively in essay format. One of the final activities for the course is taking the advanced placement test in May. Sufficiently high scores on the test may enable students to earn college credit in many colleges and universities. If such credit is a major concern, the student should check with his/her chosen college or university to determine if they grant credit for the test. College credit is not an automatic outcome of passing the course.

AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Grade 11-12

full year

Prerequisite: Any student who is willing and motivated to learn about Government at a collegiate level and pace is encouraged to enroll.

The Advanced Placement course in government is designed to give students a critical perspective on politics and government in the United States. The course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret American politics 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. Students will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement examination at the conclusion of the course.

At Lake Park High School, Advanced Placement Government and Politics is a two-semester course that meets the graduation requirement for Civics in Action. The inner workings of the United States government will be the main body of this course. Units of study include: Underpinnings of the Constitution, Federalism, Political Culture, Public Opinion, Political Participation and Voter Behavior, Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups, Media, Presidential Power, Congressional Power, Bureaucratic Politics, Judicial Power, and Civil Rights and Liberties.

Knowledge of current political events and their history will be a major asset in preparation for the AP exam. Students may be required to read newspapers, news magazines, and view news programs in addition to class readings. This knowledge gathering will help students learn about the issues, people, and events that are part of modern politics and perhaps become a lifelong habit.

Activities designed to promote student interest and help them learn are essential elements of this class. Mock Supreme Court, congressional budget simulations, debates about historical as well as current issues, debates, and discussions will all provide performance-based assessment and valuable learning experiences.

Assessments are designed to simulate the AP exams, as well as prepare the students for their college experience. Questions, both multiple choice and essay, from past exams will be used. Students will need to learn how to interpret charts, graphs, and political cartoons. This kind of practice will make students less apprehensive for the real AP exam. This course also meets the U.S. and Illinois Constitution assessment graduation requirements.



AP PSYCHOLOGY

Grades 11-12

full year

Prerequisite: Any student who is willing and motivated to learn psychology at a collegiate level and pace is encouraged to enroll.

AP Psychology is equivalent to college introductory psychology, a required course for many major areas at the university level. Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. As such, the discipline is inherently fascinating to students. Topics covered include research methods, the biological bases of behavior, sensation, perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, mental abilities, thought and language, development, personality, motivation, emotion, social processes, stress, mental disorders, and treatment and therapy.

Many hands-on demonstrations bring the course material to life and typically include experiencing the connection between taste and smell, understanding perceptual illusions, simulating the interaction of genes and the environment, becoming a human neuron, and seeing how facial expressions affect mood. The course emphasizes active learning, critical thinking, study skills, preparation for college, and successful completion of the AP exam.

CIVICS IN ACTION

Grade 12

1 semester

Prerequisite: None

Civics in Action will be a course that introduces students to how our government functions. They will identify basic principles that guided the development of our government system, as well as the reasons behind those principles. Students will learn how the government works, as well as how and why each individual living in society has a civic duty to be actively engaged in our government. Students will go through the basic roles and responsibilities of the branches of government, as well as outside influences, to accomplish this goal.

The course will help students discover how the government functions and what they can do to play a role in government to become more responsible citizens. They will exit the class with a working knowledge of this system, how it changes, and how the American people affect this change. They will participate in experiential learning to develop an understanding of their role in civic life of the United States. This course meets the U.S. and Illinois Constitution assessment graduation requirements.