

# Williston High School

## Social Studies Requirements

The Social Studies program of study includes developing skills as outlined by the ND State Standards and benchmarks. Standards and benchmarks can be discussed with any instructor or viewed at the ND State Department of Public Instruction website. The minimum Social Studies credits to graduate include 1 credit United States History, 1 credit Problems of Democracy, and 1 credit of SS electives.

<p><b>Freshman Year</b> Possible Social Studies Elective</p>	<p><b>Sophomore Year</b> Possible Social Studies Elective</p>		
<p><b>Junior Year</b>            ½ credit US History I            ½ credit US History II  <b>OR</b>            1 credit Advanced Placement US History  <b>OR</b>            2 credits American Pageant*                *also fulfills Junior English Requirement            Possible Social Studies Elective</p>	<p><b>Senior Year</b>            1 credit Problems of Democracy  <b>OR</b>            1 credit Advanced Problems of Democracy            Possible Social Studies Elective</p>		
<p><b>Social Studies Electives</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Ancient World History            Advanced Placement Psychology            Law and Justice            Modern World History</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>North Dakota Studies            Psychology            World Geography</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Ancient World History            Advanced Placement Psychology            Law and Justice            Modern World History</p>	<p>North Dakota Studies            Psychology            World Geography</p>
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### Required Course Offerings:

◆ **United States History I**

Class Type: Required  
 Grade Level: 11  
 Credit: ½ credit

This course covers US History from the Civil War to the experiences of the Roaring 20s, with a review of events in early American history. Emphasis is on the domestic and foreign affairs in American History from 1860-1929 and our nation becoming a world power. Topics discussed include Reconstruction, the Frontier, Industrialization, Reform, Imperialism, WWI, and the Roaring 20s. Current topics and issues are incorporated into the discussion.

◆ **United States History II**

Class Type: Required  
Grade Level: 11  
Credit: ½ credit

This course covers US History from the economic events of 1929 to the present time and traces America's role in world affairs. Emphasis is on the domestic and foreign affairs of our nation. Topics discussed include the Great Depression, World War II, post World War II America, the Cold War, Vietnam, and modern times. Current topics and issues are incorporated into the discussion.

◆ **Advanced Placement United States History**

Class Type: Alternative to US History I and II  
Grade Level: 11  
Credit: 1 credit  
Pre-requisite: Acceptable GPA  
Extra Costs: \$86 AP Exam fee (optional)

The AP course in US History can be used as a Social Studies elective or to fulfill the US History requirement for graduation. AP US History will provide students a more in-depth study of history while trying to incorporate more independent research, small group discussion, and analysis. A reading list will be provided. Testing will be more subjective attempting to reach a real understanding of history. The course will also prepare the student for the AP exam, which is optional.

\*\*A summer portfolio covering the first 3 chapters is required. AP US History will be a challenging and demanding course geared for the student who enjoys the study of history.

◆ **American Pageant**

Class Type: Alternative to US History I & II and Junior English  
Grade Level: 11  
Credit: 2 credits (1 credit in US History, 1 credit in English)  
Pre-requisite: Application submission and approval

American Pageant is a rigorous two-hour block course that combines the teaching of United States History and American Literature. The course is team-taught by two instructors using both traditional and innovative methods when teaching. The design of American Pageant is for students to read, write, and research about a particular era through the events of history and the literature of its writers. Students who take this course must be self-motivated.

◆ **Problems of Democracy**

Class Type: Required  
Grade Level: 12  
Credit: 1 credit

Problems of Democracy is a study that combines economics, history, and political science to give a general understanding. This course is designed to help students better understand how government impacts our lives every day. The course focuses on the definition, the history, and the types of government that are found in the world today. Problems of Democracy is divided into units covering (1) the Constitution, (2) the Legislative, Executive and Judicial, both federal and state, (3) county and city governments, (4) taxation on the national, state and local level, (5) economics and (6) personal finance.

◆ **Advanced Problems of Democracy**  
(formerly Advanced Placement Government & Politics: United States)

Class Type: Alternative to Problems of Democracy  
Grade Level: 12  
Credit: 1 credit  
Pre-requisite: Acceptable GPA  
Extra Costs: \$86 AP Exam fee (optional)

Advanced Problems of Democracy will provide students with an in-depth study of government and economics incorporating more independent research, small group discussion, and analysis. Current events are an important aspect of this class. The course will prepare students for the AP Government & Politics: United States exam, which is optional. The course will cover the following major content areas: the constitution; political beliefs and behaviors; political parties; interest groups and mass media; institutions of national government: the Congress, the presidency, and the federal courts; public policy; civil rights and civil liberties, economics, and personal finance. Advanced Problems of Democracy will be a challenging and demanding course geared for the student who enjoys the study of government and politics.

\*\*A summer assignment covering the U.S. Constitution and current events is required. Advanced POD will be a challenging and demanding course geared for the student who enjoys the study of government.

\*\*Advanced Problems of Democracy follows the standard WHS grade point scale. A student may take the AP Government & Politics: United States exam, but grades will NOT be on a 5 point GPA scale nor labeled as an AP course on student transcripts.

## Elective Course Offerings:

◆ **Ancient World History**

Class Type: Elective  
Grade Level: 9-10  
Credit: ½ credit

Ancient World History covers the history of early man from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages. In this class we will look at the social, psychological, and physical aspects of life in each culture. We will also study the governments, religions, and military techniques and weapons that used as well as inventions that impacted each of these societies. The units will include Early Man, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, China, and the Middle Ages.

◆ **Advanced Placement Psychology**

Class Type: Elective  
Grade Level: 11-12  
Credit: 1  
Pre-requisite: Acceptable GPA  
Extra Costs: \$86 AP Exam fee (optional)

Advanced Placement Psychology is an extensive study of the human psyche designed to provide students with an overview of major psychological issues. Topics covered include, but are not limited to: the history of psychology, methods of research, mental illness and treatment, memory, intelligence, life-span development, personality and social psychology. The course will prepare students for the AP Exam which is optional. Time is spent in group discussions, researching and writing, and preparing projects for class. The class will include lectures from visiting professionals and guest speakers.

◆ **Law & Justice**

Class Type: Elective  
Grade Level: 11-12  
Credit: ½ credit  
Pre-requisite: Application submission and approval

Law & Justice is designed for those interested in a career in law, law enforcement, or legal issues. The following units will be taught: juvenile law, court system and structure, drugs and alcohol, capital punishment, law enforcement, punishment and the prison system, crime, marriage and divorce, and search and seizure. The class will take field trips, host guest speakers, conduct crime scene investigations, complete fingerprinting kits and hold a mock trial. This class includes discussion of adult issues and controversial topics.

◆ **Modern World History**

Class Type: Elective  
Grade level: 9-10  
Credit: ½ credit

Modern World History covers the history of man from the emergence of modern nations to the world since 1945. Some examples of areas covered: (1) Renaissance and the making of modern nations. (2) Industrial Revolution and its effect on the culture of the world and on the earth. (3) Formation of science, economics and government structures.

◆ **North Dakota Studies**

Class Type: Elective  
Grade Level: 10  
Credit: ½ credit

North Dakota Studies will focus on the geography, history, government, current issues, and citizenship of North Dakota. The class will include information about our state's past, present and future with a possibility of projects, guest speakers, and field trips. Limited space is available in this course.

◆ **Psychology**

Class Type: Elective  
Grade Level: 11-12  
Credit: ½ credit

Psychology, the scientific study of behavior, helps the student take a better look at his/her self and the unknown side of behavior. One of the objectives will be to discover how fascinating, unpredictable, heroic, and troublesome this self can be. Students will look at various theories that psychologists have proposed and at biological and sensory behavior so they will understand the way people behave. The course will cover (1) the history of psychology, research, and social psychology, (2) how the brain works, abnormal psychology, treatment and therapy, and (3) sensation and perception, and consciousness. Psychology includes group activities, projects, and guest lectures.

◆ **World Geography**

Class Type: Elective  
Grade Level: 11-12  
Credit: ½ credit

The major purposes of global studies is to provide students with an overview of inter-relationships between people's cultures and their environments, and to interest students in the world around them. The class will prepare students for an interconnected world with an emphasis on geographic perspectives, global issues, and global citizenship.