

Social Studies Curriculum

The purpose of social studies education at Holy Family Catholic High School is to prepare students to be participating citizens of society, able to make critical judgments and informed decisions both as voters and as servants of the common good in all endeavors.

501/502 World History & Geography **9th Grade 1 credit**

World History is a required yearlong course integrated with **World Literature** and **Sacred Scripture**. Students will trace human history from the beginnings of agriculture and settled life to the time of the First World War. This is a true world history course, including information on civilizations in China, India, Africa, and the Americas as well as Europe and Western Asia. **World History and Geography** incorporates concepts and themes from literature and theology, and includes the study of geography, culture, government, and technology. This course places a special emphasis on geography with map identification incorporated into the curriculum.

511 American Government **10th Grade .5 credit**

American Government is a required social studies course that may be taken in semester or Advanced Placement form. In this semester format, students will learn about the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of national U.S. government, as well as the general workings of basic political systems. They will also explore federal and state divisions of power, U.S. political parties, and American civil liberties. Students will become informed citizens through this class. To this end, students will be required to attend a political meeting outside of the classroom and write a reaction to it.

512/513 AP Government and Politics **10th – 12th Grade 1 credit**

Advanced Placement Government and Politics is a yearlong college-level course designed to give students a detailed and analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States in addition to covering all the major characteristics and operations of it. In this class, students will be expected to write full-length research papers and do college level reading assignments as well as take tests based on the format of the **AP Government and Politics** exam given in May. These tests will include analysis of primary source documents as well as full-length essay questions requiring critical thinking and analysis of historical trends. Students who do well on the spring exam may receive college credit. This course has required reading and writing assignments that must be completed over the summer. The nightly homework assignments are in line with College Board requirements for AP courses.

520/521 United States History **11th Grade 1 credit**

United States History is a required course for juniors. The requirement, however, may be fulfilled through an Advanced Placement approach (see below). The year's study in **520/521** will combine a thematic and chronological approach to events and issues facing the United States from the 1600's to the present time. This course is designed to give students an understanding of our evolving democracy and knowledge of our past through basic themes in U.S. history and integration with **American Literature** and **Ecclesiology**.

524/525 AP U.S. History
11th -12th Grades

1 credit

Advanced Placement United States History is a full-year college level course. Students taking this course must be prepared to engage in critical thinking, synthesize materials, have good writing skills, and be prepared to examine and analyze original documents from the American past. This course is designed to help students come to a profound understanding of the major issues and conflicts that have shaped our nation into what it is today. Students will be expected to write full-length research papers and do college level reading assignments as well as take tests based on the format of the **AP U.S. History** exam given in May. These tests will include analysis of primary source documents as well as full-length essay questions requiring critical thinking and analysis of historical trends. Students who do well on the spring exam may receive college credit. This course has required reading and writing assignments that must be completed over the summer. The nightly homework assignments are in line with College Board requirements for AP courses.

527 Economics and Personal Finance
10th-12th Grades

.5 credit

Prerequisite: World History

Economics and Personal Finance is a one-semester elective class open to all students who have completed **World History**. Students will study economic decision-making at the personal, corporate, and governmental levels, and will gain practical skills such as completing a tax return, preparing a household budget and managing a checking account, line of credit, and investment portfolio.

529 Sociology
11th-12th Grades

.5 credit

Prerequisite: World History

Sociology is an elective, semester course for mature students. Students will examine the fundamental rules of human societies, including how they create and sustain themselves, how they change, and how social values produce a society's institutions. The course will also include a sociological examination of the modern United States.

532 Psychology
10th-12th Grades

.5 credit

Prerequisite: World History

Why do people behave the way they do? **Psychology** is a one-semester elective course designed to answer this question. Historical and contemporary beliefs in psychology will be addressed. A major focus of the course will be child and teen development, the central nervous system, and psychological disorders. Students will actively investigate their own learning processes and personality characteristics.

540/541 AP European History
12th Grade

1 credit

Prerequisite: World History and U. S. History

AP European History is a yearlong course that examines in detail historical developments in Europe between the Dark Ages following the fall of the Roman Empire and the Cold War following World War II. Background reading during the summer is required. Students will be expected to write full-length college level reading assignments as well as take tests based on the format of the **AP European History** exam given in May. These tests will include analysis of primary source documents as well as full-length essay questions requiring critical thinking and analysis of historical trends. Students who do well on the spring exam may receive college credit. This course has required reading and writing assignments that must be completed over the summer. The nightly homework assignments are in line with College Board requirements for AP courses.