

ACADEMY FOR BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY*
 *A charter school of Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan
 Melvindale, MI

Curriculum Guide—Department of Social Studies

Teachers Credential Requirement:

Course Number	Recommended Grade	Course Title	Recommended Prerequisite
	7 th	Western Hemisphere Geography	
	8 th	U.S. History Beginning to 1867	
	9 th	U.S. History 1867-present	
	9 th -10 th	World History	
	9 th -12 th	Geography	
	10 th -12 th	Economics	
	10 th -12 th	Government	
	12 th	Global Issues	
	11 th -12 th	Psychology	
	11 th -12 th	Sociology	
	11 th -12 th	AP U.S. History	U.S. History
	11 th -12 th	AP Psychology	

Teachers Credential Requirement:

	CX	Social Science Social Studies American Government Civics Economics Geography History Michigan History Political Science U.S. History	Psychology Sociology Anthropology Cultural Studies Behavioral Studies

Course Descriptions: Social Studies

7th GRADE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

1 credit

Students will develop basic knowledge of countries in the Western Hemisphere. They will understand culture, people, economy, climate, and governments of Western Hemisphere countries. They will be able to read and create maps, graphs, charts, and tables. Students will be engaged in several projects throughout the year.

8TH GRADE UNITED STATES HISTORY BEGINNING THROUGH 1867

1 credit

Students will understand the beginning of America. They will look at the countries that settled North America. They will understand the government foundations of America. Students will understand the Constitution, The Declaration of Independence, and The Emancipation Proclamation. Students will understand the bill of rights. They will investigate the American Revolution and the Civil War. Students will be engaged in activities and projects.

9TH GRADE UNITED STATES HISTORY RECONSTRUCTION THROUGH THE PRESENT

1 credit

Students will understand the challenges the US faced after the Civil War during Reconstruction, the tensions in the West, the rise of industry, and the great wave of immigration. Students will understand America's status as a world power, involvement in World War I, the great changes of the 1920's, the Great Depression, the world war that followed, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement and the main ideas of contemporary American society. Students will work independently and in groups on various projects for each time period including maps, journals, and illustrated storyboards. They will also participate in a role playing game for the tensions in the West.

WORLD HISTORY

1 credit

This class focuses on the study the people and nations that have shaped world events. Over the course of the semester, students will be examining events from the last 500 years, beginning with the exploration of the New World and culminating with a world at war. By studying the past, students will gain an understanding of people and events that have shaped the world we live in today.

GOVERNMENT

½ credit

This course is the first opportunity at the high school level for students to learn about their government and political behavior. Demonstrating an understanding of the historical development and current status of principles, institutions, and processes of political systems will prepare students to become effective citizens. Students will become aware of how geographic and economic factors influence political behavior. Thus, American Government establishes a knowledge base which supports the development of skills needed for citizens in a participatory democracy.

Effective citizens possess a clear understanding of government: its purposes, its processes, and its shortcomings. They gather, communicate, and utilize information in order to evaluate the competing goals and varying points of view related to public issues. Utilizing their knowledge and skills, effective citizens purposely choose to be involved in their political system and exert influence in a participatory democracy.

The study of government heightens students' awareness that there are no simple solutions to complex questions. Their abilities to make decisions and solve problems are strengthened by adopting thoughtful patterns of inquiry, reflection, and judgment. Students will understand that levels of frustration and disagreement are characteristics of a free and pluralistic society; thus they will find ways to express themselves and persuade others appropriately.

ECONOMICS

½ credit

Students will be introduced to the fundamental economic concepts of scarcity and choice, opportunity costs and trade-offs productivity, economic systems and institutions. Students will then study microeconomic concepts such as: markets and prices, supply and demand, competition, and the role of government. Each student will be required to complete a project of research and give an oral presentation using visual aids.

PSYCHOLOGY

½ credit

Students will become familiar with what psychology is and why it is an important subject. They will do group work and run their own experiments. Students will examine the brain and functions of each part of the brain. They will explore mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, depression, bipolar, and many others. They will explore personality and memory. Students will be creating an alter-ego puppet.

SOCIOLOGY

½ credit

Students will explore topics relevant to adolescence, such as: drugs, alcohol, suicide, sex, and runaways. Students will be required to be involved in community service projects. They will examine crime and the justice system for teens and how prejudice is viewed in criminal justice. Students will work in groups and conduct their own experiments. This course cycles with Psychology.

AP PSYCHOLOGY

½ credit

This year long course is intended to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students will increase their understanding of psychology, its methods, theory and research. AP psychology is a survey course, so students will focus on bits of information from many different areas in psychology. Primarily, the course will explore the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields of psychology (consciousness, learning, personality, cognition, etc.).

The objective of this course will be that each student take and pass the Advance Placement Exam for psychology and all aspects of the course will reflect this fact. AP psychology will be taught at the college level and student study habits and participation should reflect this fact. All vocabulary, information and activities will be intended to prepare you for the AP exam. Students will be asked to complete many writing assignments and projects. Students should be prepared for work outside of class.

GEOGRAPHY

½ credit

This course is designed to teach the basic concepts in contemporary geography, including: population and migration patterns, mapping techniques, locational analysis, spatial diffusion, climates, landforms, urbanization and geographic modeling. Students will also study the physical and cultural variations of the world's major realms and regions. Emphasis is placed on interaction and interdependence of a global society. This course cycles with Global Issues.

GLOBAL ISSUES

½ credit

Global issues are so important that they may literally determine the future success of the human species. The purpose of this course is to demonstrate the ways physical, economic and cultural geography affect life in various regions of the world. Students will examine current issues, and their historical antecedents, that are shared by peoples and nations of our contemporary world. This course is designed to prepare students to think, feel and act from a perspective that is global, rather than personal, regional or national. Students will expand their understanding of global connections by examining the following units of study: a geographic overview, environment, population issues, global economics, Middle East studies, terrorism and human rights. At the conclusion of this course, students will recognize that they live in a world where global issues and events have an impact on all their lives.

Students will use, interpret, and construct maps, charts, tables and graphs to improve geography skills. Students will use electronic technology for research whenever appropriate to prepare and present projects. Students will develop problem-solving skills and learn to collect, analyze, and interpret information. In addition, students will learn to express thoughtful, reasoned opinions on regional and global issues through the use of critical thinking skills. This course will be standards driven and will incorporate ACT/MME modeled assessments, emphasizing the "Extended Response" essay model.

Students will be encouraged to understand, respect and appreciate various cultures. Students will learn to view issues from a global perspective. Students will demonstrate an awareness of human rights and will develop a deeper understanding, appreciation and application of the Core Democratic Values. Students will apply the Core Democratic Values, as provided by the Michigan Department of Education, throughout the curriculum. Opportunities will be provided for students to participate in group discussions and projects concerning global issues and activities that are focused on global needs.

AP U.S. HISTORY

1 credit

This course will emphasize interpreting documents, mastering a significant body of factual information, and writing critical essays. Topics include life and thought of colonial America, revolutionary ideology, constitutional development, Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy, nineteenth-century reform movements, and Manifest Destiny. Various themes will also be studied, including: discussions of American diversity, the development of a unique American identity, the evolution of American culture, demographic changes, economic trends, and environmental issues to name just a few. These themes will be traced throughout the year, emphasizing the ways in which they are interconnected and examining the ways in which each helps to shape the changes over time that are so important to understanding United States history.