

SOCIAL STUDIES

All students must successfully complete four units of Social Studies.

Global History & Geography 1 or 1 Honors - Global History & Geography 2 or AP World History - United States History & Government or AP American History - Economics and Participation in Government (1/2 credit each)

Course name: **Global History & Geography I**
 Global History & Geography I Pre-AP
Credit: **1**

The first semester covers a cultural approach to the following World Culture Areas: Africa (sub-Saharan), China, Japan, India, and the Middle East. The geography, history, anthropology, political science, and economics of the areas will provide the main strands for developing each of the regions studied. The second semester will cover world history from the ancient world until the early modern world. The focus will be on Europe while integrating the areas studied in the first semester into a global approach to world history.

The Pre-AP class meets the requirements of the Regents level course as well as following Pre-AP guidelines. There is greater emphasis on student demonstration of the depth of their knowledge and understanding. Students take a Regents examination after Global History and Geography II. Students are preparing to take the Advanced Placement World History exam in the spring of 10th grade.

Course name: **Global History & Geography II**
Credit: **1**
Grade: **10**
Prerequisite: **Global History & Geography I**

This course follows the curriculum of Global History & Geography I and concludes with the Regents exam. The emphasis is on cultural development throughout the history of the world. The course uses a chronological format organized around themes and concepts. The New York State Regents is a two-year cumulative exam that tests the content and skills learned over the two-year program.

Course Name: **Advanced Placement World History**
Credit: **1**
Grade: **10**
Prerequisite: **Global History & Geography 1 Pre-AP or admissions through the Honors Matrix**

This Advanced Placement course is offered to sophomores in the honors program in Social Studies. AP World History is a reading and writing intensive course. The course focuses on six themes to help students understand specific time periods and societies within the large framework of world history. These themes provide ways of making comparisons over time. The course builds on an understanding of cultural, institutional, and technological precedents along with geography. Areas of study include Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. **Students enrolled in the course must take the AP World History exam in May, as well as the Global History and Geography Regents in June.**

Course Name: **United States History and Government**
Credit: **1**
Grade: **11**

A survey of American history, this course examines the political, economic, and social development of the U.S. The role of government and its operations are emphasized. Students will take the Regents examination in U. S. History and Government at the end of the course. This course is the third year of the Social Studies requirement for graduation.

Course name: **Advanced Placement American History**
Credit: **1**
Grade: **11**
Prerequisite: **Global History & Geography II Pre-AP or admissions through the Honors Matrix**

AP American History is the chronological history of the United States, emphasizing pivotal issues and forces that have shaped the development of the nation. It requires students to do extensive reading, document based questions and honors-level research papers. **Students must take the Regents examination in U.S. History and Government as well as the Advanced Placement test in American History.**

Course name: Economics
Credit: 1/2
Grade: 12

Economics is a required one-semester course for 12th grade students. Students will gain an understanding of the United States economy, the role of the consumer and personal finance, the types of economic systems, and international trade issues.

Course name: Participation in Government
Credit: 1/2
Grade: 12

This course is a required one-semester course for 12th grade students. The course is designed to encourage the development of civic-minded individuals. Topics include the nature of government, public policy issues, and the role of the individual in creating and affecting change in policy

Course name: Advanced Placement Economics/Participation in Government
Credit: 1
Grade: 12
Prerequisite: Advanced Placement US History or admissions through the Honors Matrix

This Advanced Placement course in Microeconomics will give students an understanding of the principles of economics that apply to individual decision makers, consumers and producers. It places an emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes a study of factor markets and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. **Students must take the AP exam in Microeconomics in May.**

This full-year course also meets the Participation in Government requirement in that it examines the role of the government in the economy, public policy issues, and the role of the individual in affecting change in policy.

Course name: Humanities—Conflict, Culture, and Change in the US in the 1960's
Credit: 1 (1/2 credit in English, 1/2 credit in Social Studies)
meets Participation in Government requirements
Grade: 12

This reading and writing intensive course is an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the dramatic and lasting events of the 1960's in the United States. Literature will be used to arrive at a deeper understanding of themes, historical events, and cultural changes that occurred during this time period. The Vietnam War, Cold War, Space Race, and the Civil Rights movement will be the key events studied about a time that revolutionized the way our society thought. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, *The Things They Carried*, *Slaughterhouse-Five* and song lyrics and poems will be the major pieces of literature used to illuminate the complex political and social culture of the 1960's. **This course meets for a double period for one semester.**

The following courses are elective courses. They cannot be used to meet the graduation requirement of four years of Social Studies.

Course name: Advanced Placement Psychology
Credit: 1
Grade: 11,12
Prerequisite: Psychology

The AP Psychology course introduces students to the study of behavior and mental process of animals and human beings. Students learn psychological facts and principles, along with the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. This course is equivalent to a college-level introductory psychology course.
Students enrolled in the course are required to take the AP exam in May.

Course Name: Belief Systems and Philosophical Tenets
Credit: 1/2
Grade: 10-12

This course will examine the major religions and philosophies of the world. That study will include Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucian, Tao, Shinto, various indigenous beliefs and a mixture of new religions. The course will analyze the history, beliefs, practices and rituals of these religions and philosophies. The course is geared toward Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors interested in the subject.

Course name: **Civil Law**
Credit: **1/2**

This course introduces the ethics and legal framework of business. Emphasis is placed on contracts, negotiable instruments, Uniform Commercial Code, and the working of the court systems. Civil Law offers the student an overview of the information needed to identify the functions, classifications, and sources of law. The program also details crimes and torts relating to businesses, as well as tort duties, and direct and indirect liabilities. *(Will not be offered 2008-2009 school year)*

Course name: **Criminal Law**
Credit: **1/2**
Grade: **11, 12**

This course provides a general introduction to criminal law. It focuses on the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendments. This course will examine search and seizure, interrogation, confessions, and standard police procedures. It will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the criminal process from its inception through the trial process and the corrections system.

Course name: **Media and Society**
Credit: **1/2**
Grade: **10-12**

Media and Society will take a look at the role of the media in our society. We will take a historic look at both radio and television and then students will concentrate on creating their own multimedia production. This will give the students the opportunity to research topics and issues that are of concern to them and/or the community and then report on them in a unique way. After students have completed their research they will create a multimedia piece that can be broadcast to the school community during the morning news announcements. Students will learn how to research current events, interview people, plan and write scripts, film and edit, and develop an understanding of reporting. Through the creation of their projects students will use a multitude of ELA attributes and social studies and technology skills. This course will give the students a unique opportunity to apply the research that they complete, and share that research with their school community.

Course name: **Psychology**
Credit: **1/2**
Grade: **10-12**

This one-semester elective introduces students to human development and human behavior. Areas of study include theories of psychology, child and adolescent behavior, mental health and mental illness, and related topics.

Course name: **Sociology**
Credit: **1/2**
Grade: **10-12**

This one-semester course introduces students to theories of social behaviors and cultures. Areas of study include cultural variation and change, the effects of socialization on the individual, social norms, and related topics. *(Will not be offered 2008-2009 school year)*

Course name: **TV Production**
Credit: **1/2**

The creation and operation of a broadcast news facility will be the primary focus of this class. Students will run a two-camera newsroom, broadcasting news and announcements throughout PVHS. They will learn to work the control room, including directing, producing, camera switcher, lighting console and video recording decks. Fieldwork will include “electronic news gathering,” reports on school events and linear and non-linear editing of recordings for broadcasts. The class will be given 1st period in order to air the morning news and announcements.