

The Social Studies Department seeks to prepare students to be responsible and effective citizens in our ever-changing interdependent world. To prepare students to play a dynamic role in their local and global communities, our department strives to develop students who possess disciplinary knowledge and skills, and a respect for multiple perspectives. The overall goal is to help develop a just and humane society, reflective of our Cretin-Derham Hall values.

***PLEASE NOTE: To qualify for an Advanced Placement social studies course, a 3.5 social studies GPA or higher is strongly recommended.***

## **SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT FOR GRADE 9:**

Values Symposium-Social Studies (pre-registered) **and** one Area Studies elective

## **SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT FOR GRADE 10:**

3 trimesters of U.S. History **or** AP U.S. History

## **SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT FOR GRADES 11 AND 12:**

***Required: four social studies classes within grades 11 and 12 to include:***

- Economics **or** Economics-honors (Grade 11 or 12) **and**
  - AP US Government (two trimesters in Grade 11 or 12) **and**
  - 1 Social Studies elective (Grade 11 or 12)
- OR**
- Economics **or** Economics-honors (Grade 11 or 12) **and**
  - US Government (Grade 12) **and**
  - 2 Social Studies electives (Grade 11 or 12)

***Note: Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium-honors (Spectrum) in grade 12 fulfills 2 required Social Studies electives in addition to 1 enrichment Social Studies credit.***

## **Requirement: Grade 9**

Values Symposium (year long) and one Area Studies elective

## **VALUES SYMPOSIUM – Social Studies      Grade 9 students are pre-registered for this course.**

This ninth grade interdisciplinary course is intended to provide all students with a common academic and affective experience as they begin their secondary school education. Based expressly on the CDH values of academics, service, leadership, Catholicity, community, equity, and diversity, this year long course is team taught through the religion, English and social studies departments, and is supported by technology integration. It is our goal that students will learn more effectively by connecting traditionally separate subjects, providing a more natural educational process in preparation for life-long learning. Important aspects of this course include the building of relationships among the students and between students and their teachers, developing critical thinking and communication skills and encouraging informed citizenship and active participation in the CDH community.

***Grade 9***

## **Area Studies Electives: Grade 9,**

One area studies elective must be taken in addition to the required Grade 9 Values Symposium course.

### **Trimester 1**

#### **LATIN AMERICA**

#### **Tri I**

Students will study the geography, history, culture and current conditions of Latin America. This course is for students of all ability levels.

***Grade 9***

#### **MIDDLE EAST**

#### **Tri I**

Students will study the geography, history, culture and current conditions of the Middle East. This course is for students of all ability levels.

***Grade 9***

### **Trimester 2**

#### **AFRICA**

#### **Tri II**

Students will study the geography, history, culture and current conditions of Africa. This course is for students of all ability levels.

***Grade 9***

#### **EAST ASIA**

#### **Tri II**

Students will study the geography, history, culture and current conditions of China, Japan and the Koreans. This course is for students of all ability levels.

***Grade 9***

### **Trimester 3**

#### **HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

#### **Tri III**

In this course, students will learn about basic geographic ideas, concepts and themes. They will study how geography influences the culture and economy of modern nations. How and why humans live the way they do will be explained from a number of different viewpoints. Crucial global issues will be dealt with from a geographic perspective. This course is for students of all ability levels.

***Grade 9***

#### **RUSSIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH STATES**

#### **Tri III**

Students will study the geography, history, culture and current conditions of Russia. The course also looks at the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This course is for students of all ability levels.

***Grade 9***

## Requirement - Grade 10: U. S. History or AP U. S. History

All 10th grade students are required to take U.S. History (year long) or AP U.S. History (year long).

### UNITED STATES HISTORY

**Year long**

U.S. History will emphasize the importance of political history as well as the role diverse groups have played in the development of American society. The period of colonial history, the revolution and constitution; the growth of democratic principles under Andrew Jackson; the Civil War; the relationship of “big business” and government during the last part of the 1800’s; political changes brought by the depression, two world wars, and the nuclear age will be covered in this course.

**Grade 10**

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY

**Year long**

***PLEASE NOTE: A social studies GPA of 3.5 or higher is strongly recommended for Advanced Placement U. S. History, as well as a strong interest in learning history.***

Advanced Placement United States History is a year long chronological study of US History. This course will teach students factual knowledge. Students will also demonstrate the skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. The demands of this course are equivalent to those of a full-year introductory college course. Students will read numerous primary source documents as well as a college level textbook. In addition, students will complete extensive writing assignments and essay exams. Due to the scope and depth of this course, students will be required to complete summer reading assignments and homework.

“The AP program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with problems and materials in United States history. This program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon 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 to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. This course will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.” (AP College Board)

**Grade 10**

## Requirement - Grade 11 and 12:

***Required: four social studies classes within grades 11 and 12 to include:***

- Economics **or** Economics-honors (Grade 11 or 12) **and**
  - AP US Government (two trimesters in Grade 11 or 12) **and**
  - 1 Social Studies elective (Grade 11 or 12)
- OR**
- Economics **or** Economics-honors (Grade 11 or 12) **and**
  - US Government (Grade 12) **and**
  - 2 Social Studies electives (Grade 11 or 12)

***Note: Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium-honors (Spectrum) in grade 12 fulfills 2 required Social Studies electives in addition to 1 enrichment Social Studies credit.***

### ECONOMICS - Honors

**Tri I**

In this one-trimester course, after an introduction to basic economic concepts, students are guided in a critical analysis of selected economic topics. Through readings, research, and discussion they develop some expertise in interpreting the significance of current economic policies and identify patterns that will give shape to the economic world of the 21st century. Reading skill, a strong understanding of Algebra and an interest in developing a better understanding of today’s world are essential in this course.

**Grades 11, 12**

## **ECONOMICS**

### **Tri II or Tri III**

This one-trimester course is designed to give the students an understanding of basic economic theory and its application to both the American economic system and economic realities throughout the world. Special emphasis is placed on developing economic reasoning skills and applying economic theory to the real world.

***Grades 11, 12***

***ECONOMICS and ECONOMICS – HONORS: Grade 12 students are given priority at registration for Economics and Economics-honors***

## **UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

### **Tri I**

Local, state, and federal government will be covered in this one trimester course. The history and role of political parties as well as the importance of the media will be addressed. Students will observe local and state government in operation.

***Grade 12***

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT - Honors**

### **Tri II and Tri III**

***PLEASE NOTE: A social studies GPA of 3.5 or higher is strongly recommended for Advanced Placement U. S. Government, as well as a strong interest in learning about government***

Advanced Placement U.S. Government is a two-trimester course open to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. 11<sup>th</sup> graders would take this course to fulfill their U.S. Government requirement. 12<sup>th</sup> graders may take this course to fulfill two of their three trimester social studies requirements.

Advanced Placement U.S. Government will cover the development of our political system and how it functions today. The three branches of government will be stressed. The process of creating public policy and the implementation of that policy will be examined. Students who take this course will be expected to do extensive readings and have good writing skills. Advanced Placement U.S. Government will prepare students to take the Advanced Placement exam in the spring. Many colleges and universities will give credit and /or advanced placement to students who do well on the exam.

***Grades 11, 12***

## **SENIOR INTERDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM (SPECTRUM) - Honors    Year long**

Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium is an interdisciplinary course that fulfills the 12<sup>th</sup> grade requirement for credit in English, and religion. The course also fulfills 2 credits for social studies. Students are required to take Economics or Economics-honors and U. S. Government or AP U. S. Government to fulfill the social studies requirement. This course is taught by three teachers (one from each discipline) and meets for two consecutive class periods.

The three disciplines in the course are integrated in two primary ways. First the course focuses upon themes that are common to the three subject areas. The values of Catholic Social Teaching underlie the selection of literature and guide the approach to each topic. Second, the disciplines are integrated through an emphasis on developing skills: reading, writing, critical thinking and discussion.

Spectrum has a focus on service, learning and leadership. When a student registers for Spectrum, he/she agrees to do a year of service at one of the program's designated sites.

***A 3.5 cumulative GPA in English, religion and social studies is strongly recommended for registration for Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium (Spectrum).***

***Students will be encouraged to attend and participate in an overnight retreat. Approximate cost: \$80.00.***

***Limited financial assistance is available to students who cannot otherwise afford to attend the retreat.***

St. Mary's University will give credit for Readings in Literature OR Senior Interdisciplinary Symposium (Spectrum), not both. St. Mary's University has approved Spectrum as part of its Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC). Twelfth graders who take Spectrum and maintain a "C" average in this class may earn three college credits from St. Mary's which are transferable to approximately sixty other colleges and universities.

- ***Grade 12***

## **Electives**

### **AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY – College Prep or Honors**

**Tri III**

This course is an in depth study of African-American History. It will build upon the 10<sup>th</sup> grade United States History class, but take a different lens and deepen understanding of African-American contributions to United States History.

This class can be taken at the college prep or honors level.

***Grades 11, 12***

### **CLOSE-UP**

**Tri II**

This is a trimester-long course in which students study the theories and practices of government. It culminates in one week in Washington, D. C. where the students see and experience federal government in action. Students who sign up for this class are expected to participate in the trip to Washington, D.C. Current events will be stressed. Costs for last year's trip were approximately \$1,790.00.

***Grades 11, 12***

### **DEBATE**

**Tri I**

Students explore issues while focusing on preparing arguments and communicating effectively. Using a variety of techniques and delivery methods, the course will emphasize participative, active, informal and formal persuasion. Processes of Lincoln-Douglas (one on one) and Traditional (team) debate will be the vehicle by which students can demonstrate their research, case development and presentation skills.

***Grades 11, 12***

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - Honors**

**Tri II**

This one-trimester honors course is designed for students who are interested in analyzing the complex relationships among the nations of the world. After the fundamentals of foreign policy are studied, the course will proceed into a series of case studies, focusing on international organizations, nations and issues that have been in the news. The successful student will come to the course with above average reading, writing, and speaking skills, as well as the willingness to adopt other countries' and cultures' points of view.

***A 3.5 social studies GPA or higher is strongly recommended.***

***Grades 11, 12***

### **PSYCHOLOGY**

**Tri II or Tri III**

This course is a study of the major theories of psychology and how they relate to the development of the personality. Topics such as learning, perception, the shaping of values, the unconscious personality and behavior disorders will be introduced.

***Grades 11, 12***

### **SOCIOLOGY**

**Tri II or Tri III**

This course will introduce students to the study of human society and its origins. Students will study the impact institutions, organizations and the pressure to respond to the norms of a culture play on the individual within various societies.

***Grades 11, 12***

## **SOCIOLOGY OF SPORTS -**

**Tri III**

### **The Role of Race, Class and Gender in Athletics**

This course will introduce students to the study of sociology. Students will study the impact that institutions, organizations and the norms of a culture, have on individuals involved in many different aspects of athletics. Students will specifically study the ways that athletics impact the societal norms of race, class and gender, as well as how these cultural norms are influenced by athletics.

***Grades 11, 12***

## **WOMEN'S STUDIES**

**Tri I**

This course is designed around the question, "What does it mean to be a woman?" Students will be expected to engage in critical thinking. A variety of resources will be used so that students develop informed opinions when expressing agreement or disagreement. Some of the topics covered are: health care issues, anatomy, the changing role of women in society, the role of women in the United States history, the role of women in other countries, and women in the workplace, etc. Students may contract to receive honors credit.

***Grades 11, 12 (females only)***