

Required High School Courses

Students are required to earn 3.5 credits in Social Studies. Government, World History, US History and Economics are required for graduation. Students also need to pass the Government HSA. Courses are differentiated to meet the needs of a variety of learners.

Program	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Standard	American Government	World History	United States History	Economics and Public Issues
Honors	Honors American Government	Honors World History	Honors US History or AP US History	Honors EPI or AP Economics
GT/AP	GT American Government or AP Government	GT World History	AP United States History	AP Economics

Grade 9

Standard/Honors American Government (1 credit): This course helps students to develop skills and acquire insights essential to an understanding of American political, economic, and social life at the national, state, and local levels. Attention will be on political, economic, and social issues and preparation for responsible citizenship.

Or

Gifted and Talented American Government (1 credit): This course is a study of the American political, economic, and social issues in national, state, and local government. In addition to factual content, the processes, institutions, and values of the American political, economic, and social systems are examined.

Grade 10

Standard/Honors World History (1 credit): Significant episodes from western and non-western history are investigated including the emergence of ancient and classical centers of regional civilization; the development of the hemispheric civilization of Islam; the growth of historical ties of interdependence; the expansion of Europe and its domination of the world in the modern era; the development of Africa and Asia in the modern era; and the development of global networks of political, economic, and social interdependence in the contemporary world.

Or

Gifted and Talented World History (1 credit): This course is an in-depth study of ancient and medieval history; modern and contemporary European history; China as a non-western culture undergoing profound change; and contemporary political, economic, and social examples of global systems.

Grade 11

Standard/Honors United States History (1 credit): United States History enables students to participate in an in-depth examination of the events, participants, patterns, and relationships of our nation from the end of the Civil War to the present era. Recurring historical themes are presented within a chronological framework. The course provides opportunities for students to master the content while also developing the historical thinking skills required for a deep and sophisticated understanding of the past.

Grade 12

Standard/Honors Economics and Public Issues (1/2 credit): Economics and Public Issues will prepare students for the economic interactions they will encounter as producers, consumers, and citizens. This course will provide the students the opportunity to master the skills needed to conduct personal finances as earners, savers, borrowers, and taxpayers.

AP Courses

What are Advanced Placement (AP) Courses and why should I take them?

Advanced Placement courses provide the opportunity for students to take rigorous, college-level courses in high school and, depending upon their score on the AP exam and the college attending, receive college credit, advanced placement, or both. Many colleges and universities grant college credit based on the AP test score a student earns and as a result, advanced academic standing may be granted to a student. Earning college credit prior to attending college may allow students to earn a college degree in fewer than four years, take lighter course loads during their freshman year, and/or complete a double major or study abroad while still graduating on time.

Students taking AP courses are better prepared for the college challenge and perform better in college than those students who have not taken AP courses. According to the U.S. Department of Education, “Preventing underachievement in high school requires appropriately enriched and challenging course selections.” The United States Department of Education has provided the following statistical information regarding AP courses and student performance in college:

- Students who take no AP courses in high school have a 33% chance of earning a Bachelor’s degree
- Students who take 1 AP course have a 59% chance of earning a Bachelor’s degree
- Students who take 2 or more AP courses have a 76% chance of earning a Bachelor’s degree

What Advanced Placement (AP) Courses are offered at Franklin High School?

AP Government and Politics: U. S. (Grade 9)

This course is about the American political system. Political ideology, the development of the political system, and our democratic institutions form the basis of discussion for the course. Students will be able to evaluate the role of the national government and its relationship to the concept of liberty in a pluralistic society. The discussions will emphasize the changing political culture of American society and its effect on voting patterns, trends, and the process of government. The main thrust of the course, however, is to be able to apply an understanding of our political system to contemporary events. ***Enrollment in this course meets the graduation requirement for Government.***

AP Human Geography (Grade 10, 11, or 12)

The AP Human Geography course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. The course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth’s surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012).

AP U.S. History (Grade 11)

The purpose of this course is to provide a challenging and unique study of United States History at the college level. The course places students in the role of historians; investigating the events, personalities, conditions, and issues of the past. Success in AP United States History requires the ability to read and analyze complex texts, and the ability to write historical arguments. Students will need to be able to apply historical knowledge when answering AP style selective response and essay questions. ***Enrollment in this course meets the graduation requirements for US History.***

AP Psychology (Grade 11 or 12)

The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, analyze bias, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

AP European History (Grade 11 or 12)

The AP European History course focuses on cultural, economic, political, and social developments. These focus areas provide context for understanding the development of contemporary institutions, the role of continuity and change in present-day society and politics, and the evolution of current forms of artistic expression and intellectual discourse. The course places students in the role of historians; investigating the events, personalities, conditions, and issues of the past. Success in AP European History requires the ability to read and analyze complex texts, and the ability to write historical arguments. Students will need to be able to apply historical knowledge when answering AP style selective response and essay questions.

AP Microeconomics/Macroeconomics (Grade 12)

This course places students in the roll of economist: investigating economic behaviors, applying principles of economic reasoning, and making informed economic decisions in the fields of microeconomics and macroeconomics. This course requires students to interpret data, express ideas in writing and graphically, and apply understanding to real-world conditions. Upon completion of the course, students will take AP exams in both Micro-and Macro-Economics. *This course meets the graduation requirement for Economics.*

AP Government and Politics: U. S. (Grade12)

This course is about the American political system. Political ideology, the development of the political system, and our democratic institutions form the basis of discussion for the course. Student s will be able to evaluate the roll of the national government and its relationship to the concept of liberty in a pluralistic society. The discussions will emphasize the changing political culture of American society and its effect on voting patterns, trends, and the process of government. The main thrust of the course, however, is to be able to apply an understanding of our political system to contemporary events.

2014-2015 Social Studies AP Results

AP Class	Number of Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scoring 3, 4, or 5	Percent of Exams Scoring 3, 4, or 5 for 2015	National Percent of exams scoring 3, 4, or 5 for 2014*
AP Human Geography	69	48	69%	52.0%
AP US History	51	41	80%	52.4%
AP Econ: Micro	16	11	68%	65.0%
AP Econ: Macro	17	11	65%	57.8%
AP European History	22	18	82%	59.5%
AP Psychology	130	92	71%	65.5%
AP Government	40	27	67%	50.7%

*Data for 2015 not available as of yet.

Electives

Psychology (1/2 credit):

This is a study of human behavior, examined within the context of the behavioral sciences of psychology and sociology. Fundamental to this course is a focus upon identity development, schools of psychology, normal and abnormal behaviors, and treatment.

Honors Abnormal Psychology (1/2 credit):

Students define and analyze abnormal behavior from a variety of perspectives. The major types and ranges of abnormal behavior are examined in detail, with special emphasis on causation and symptoms. The course culminates with analysis of treatment approaches and their respective techniques. *Note: Completion of Psychology is recommended.*

Philosophy (1/2 credit):

This course examines philosophical questions about the nature of being, the mind, ethical behavior, and life. A range of important philosophical systems and several ethical dilemmas that have consistently perplexed thoughtful people will be examined. This course should appeal to students who have a strong interest in questions rather than answers, the unknown rather than the known, ideas rather than facts, and the “why” rather than the “what.”

Facing History: The Holocaust (1/2 credit):

This course will help students develop an appreciation for justice, a concern for interpersonal understanding, and sensitivity for those who have been wronged. Students will identify historical patterns of racism in order to connect the past with the present. Students will increase understandings of human behavior in order to recognize different forms of prejudice and discrimination.

Films and History (1/2 credit):

For many Americans, movie dramatizations are their primary source of knowledge about many events in the past. But how accurate are they? In this course, students will develop criteria for judging the accuracy of historical films. They will then view and analyze several movie classics that portray various periods of history. Research of life during historical eras and review of movie criticism will be included. Students will assess the results of research to give each film a rating for its historical accuracy. This will enable them to determine if these movies about a historical period can be viewed for educational value, as well as raise questions that they should consider whenever they again watch a film portraying the past.

Juvenile Justice (1/2 Credit):

This course will help students develop successful patterns of behavior by making them more aware of what triggers conflict and confrontation. Juvenile Justice will improve understanding of legal terminology, provide a greater sense of self-awareness and understanding of rules, and increase skills of communication. Students will analyze the purposes and consequences of the distinctions between the juvenile and adult legal systems. While examining issues and problems which affect our society, students will develop a sense of citizenship and responsibility.