

Social Studies, History, & Government

A minimum of 3 Social Studies credits is required.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Courses (Choose One)	World Studies	None Required	American Studies 1	American Studies 2
	AP Human Geography		AP American History	AP American Government
Elective Courses	Montana History	AP European History <i>(offered odd years)</i>	AP European History <i>(offered odd years)</i>	AP European History <i>(offered odd years)</i>
		Current/Social Issues	Current/Social Issues	Current/Social Issues
		World History <i>(offered even years)</i>	World History <i>(offered even years)</i>	World History <i>(offered even years)</i>
		Psychology	Psychology	Psychology
		Montana History	AP Psychology	AP Psychology
		Montana History	Montana History	

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies department at HHS provides a variety of courses to broaden the base of students' cultural and civic awareness. Some of the courses described are required for graduation while others provide elective opportunities. The elective courses offer students the opportunity to explore more fully specific content areas of the social sciences or gain an awareness of issues and concerns of a more current nature.

Seniors who take an online version of AP Government or an online regular Government course will also need to take a qualifying financial literacy course for graduation requirements.

FRESHMAN YEAR - WORLD CULTURES OPTIONS

2100 World Studies

**Required: 9
Full Year – 1 Credit**

The World Studies course, rooted in an inquiry-based approach, seamlessly integrates civics, economics, geography, and history to cultivate critical thinking skills. Aligned with state, national, and C3 standards, it not only prepares students for active citizenship but also encourages a growth mindset. This dynamic course goes beyond traditional learning, providing a holistic educational experience that equips students with knowledge and skills for the complexities of the 21st century.

2103 AP Human Geography

**Elective*: 9
Full Year – 1 Credit**

Learn about the world and get college credit! The AP Human Geography course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. Content is presented thematically through the subfields of economic geography, cultural geography, political geography and urban geography. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today. Students enrolling for this course will be assigned college-level texts to read, along with rigorous writing assignments. Only those who are able to perform at a higher academic level should enroll.

JUNIOR YEAR - AMERICAN STUDIES OPTIONS

2300 American Studies I

**Required: 11
Full Year – 1 Credit**

In the American Studies I course, spanning from Pre-Columbian America to 1939, students engage in an integrated process exploring the past, contemplating the present, and anticipating the future. Utilizing authentic inquiry methods, the course places a strong emphasis on questioning, analyzing primary and secondary sources, and conveying conclusions through written, verbal, and visual means. This junior-level course delves into America's history, heritage, and evolving global role, with a deep integration of civics, geography, and economics. Through thematic and chronological sequences, students prepare for their role as participatory members of a democracy, engaging in various activities and assessments such as individual work, collaboration, lectures, presentations, and research.

2306 American History – Advanced Placement

**Elective*: 11
Full Year – 1 Credit**

The Advanced Placement United States History course is designed to challenge and stimulate the student's historical awareness. The course will provide the equivalent of a freshman level college course in United States History. Students will have the opportunity to: develop and hone critical thinking and writing skills through interpretation of primary source documents; critical and analytical reading of historical materials; interpretation and analysis of graphs, charts, political cartoons, etc. The course is also designed to prepare students to take the AP History exam in the spring. Requirements for acceptance to the program include: 1) Acceptable score on the CTBS and/or DAT 2) Grades of B or better previous social science and English courses 3) Recommendation of previous English teacher 4) Consent of the A.P. History instructor.

SENIOR YEAR - STUDY OPTIONS

2400 American Studies II

**Required: 12
Full Year – 1 Credit**

Building on the foundation laid by American Studies I, this inquiry-based course explores history from 1940 to the modern day using a thematic lens integrating civics, geography, and economics. American Studies II, designed for senior-level students, covers key aspects such as the Constitution, government structure, political parties, interest groups, civil rights, and comparative political and economic systems. Through diverse methods like group projects, discussions, and research, students engage in active citizenship. Assessment is conducted through various written and/or oral techniques. American Studies II satisfies the civic/government and financial literacy requirements for graduation.

2406 American Government – Advanced Placement

**Elective*: 12
Full Year – 1 Credit**

The Advanced Placement U.S. Government & Politics course is equivalent to a freshman-level college course in political science. It is designed to give students both an informed and critical perspective on government and politics in the United States through analysis of American political structure and the process of political decision-making. Students are required to become familiar with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that make up American political culture. The course is also designed to prepare students for the AP U.S. Government & Politics exam at the end of the year. Depending on the criteria of the individual university or college, students with scores of 3 or above on the exam may receive college credit for required political science courses. Admission to the course is based on acceptable PSAT verbal and written scores, grades of "B" or above in previous social studies and English courses, and the recommendation of the student's U.S. History and/or English instructor.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

2426 AP European History (Offered Odd Years)

**Elective: 10 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit**

AP European History is a course designed to be the equivalent of a freshman college course in a high school setting. It is a year-long survey of European history from the Renaissance to the present. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents and historiography.

Students will be required to apply the effort necessary to act as an historian and develop the ability to analyze historical evidence to determine its validity and relevance, identify point of view and the nature of bias, and recognize the necessity of objectivity and substantiation. The methodology of an historian involves skills that are highly transferable-- the ability to formulate generalizations, interpret and use data and to analyze and weigh evidence from conflicting sources of information are applicable to many other academic and practical disciplines.

2430 Current/Social Issues

Elective: 10 – 12
Semester – .5 Credit

This course is designed to provide knowledge and understanding of social problems in the United States. Using a sociological prospective we exam inequities in topics such as economics, race, gender, incarceration, environmental, education and more. Topics are decided in class and can change every semester depending on the students' interest. Your voice and opinions will be important to the success of this class.

2440 World History (Offered Even Years)

Elective: 10 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

World History is a course designed to complement the required Social Study courses – by developing a wider understanding of the world and its history. This course is highly recommended for those students who plan to attend college but may be taken by serious students of all levels. The first semester will allow students to explore and analyze the major political, economic, social, and cultural themes and patterns we see from prehistoric times through 1500 CE, while the second semester will focus on 1450 CE through contemporary times. Such themes and patterns include, but are not limited to, the spread of humans, the rise of complex civilizations, human exchanges, key human innovations, the rise of universal religions, key revolutions, and globalization. Students will be expected to participate in and complete class discussions, hands-on activities and projects, written assignments, and reading assignments that are meant to help students develop and refine their historical thinking skills.

2450 Psychology

Elective: 10 – 12
Semester – .5 Credit

This course will focus on scientific studies of human behavior and the applications of psychological research to everyday life. Topics will include learning principles, biological aspects of behavior, personality theory, mental health, therapy and interpersonal communication. Applied activities, lectures, experiments, films and speakers will make up the primary activities.

2456 AP Psychology (DC) PSYX100 Dual Credit Helena College (3 credits)

Elective: 11 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

The Advanced Placement Psychology course is a one-year course designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and theories associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. The AP Psychology course is equivalent to a freshman-level college course in psychology. The course is designed to prepare students for the AP Psychology Exam which will be taken at the end of the year. Depending on the criteria of the individual university or college, students with scores of 3 or above on the exam may receive college credit or exemption from the course. Students who select the dual credit option will, upon completion of the course with a C or better, receive credit for the Introduction to Psychology course at Helena College (PSYX100).

Prerequisite: None – however, students should be committed to the rigors of an AP course.

2460 Montana History

Elective: 9 – 12
Semester – .5 Credit

Montana History offers a diverse look at how Montana became the state it is today. Montana's history includes Native American study, the homesteading era, fur trading and gold mining, railroading, the boom-and-bust era, as well as many more. Hands-on projects, speakers, topic research, films and possible tours bring an interesting perspective to this fun class.