

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY

- Master the twelve basic areas of study outlined by the American Psychological Association for college introductory psychology.
- Apply psychological theory to their lives.
- Think critically, analyze material for psychological concepts, evaluate the validity of various experiments, tests, or studies, and participate in the experimental method of research.
- Understand primary source readings and clear written/oral communication through the use of debate and position papers on controversial topics in psychology.
- Participate in cooperative as well as independent learning
- Use computer technology and the Internet to connect to current research underway in the field of social science and historic research studies.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

- Describe the role of the citizen in our democracy
- Define and provide examples of different forms of government
- Distinguish between limited and unlimited government
- Explain how a constitutional democracy provides majority rule with equal protection for the rights of individuals, including those in the minority, through limited government and the rule of law.
- Explain the election process
- Distinguish, in form and function, the three branches of our federal government
- Identify the traits and responsibilities of state government
- Identify the traits and responsibilities of local government

WESTERN CIVILIZATION

- Understand the roots of democracy
- Explain the rise and fall of the Roman Empire
- Identify the factors that contribute to the creation of a nation state
- Understand the art/culture of a civilization
- Identify western alternatives to the democratic model
- Understand current world conflicts in relation to developments in western civilization

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Curriculum Benchmarks

Grades 9-12

History/Social Science

Westford Academy

Compiled by The History/Social Science
Curriculum Task Committee
under the direction of
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Lorraine Tacconi-Moore

“Shaping the future one child at a time”
westfordk12.us

WORLD HISTORY

- Locate major geographic and political areas on the globe
- Show understanding of the foundations of major world religions and their connections to historic and current world events
- Demonstrate understanding of political, economic, social, and cultural foundations of cultures and civilizations of Africa, Asia, and the Americas
- Read for meaning, take notes and develop sound research skills
- Demonstrate understanding of history through written and oral expression
- Understand the development of western civilization and make connections to the modern world

AMERICAN HISTORY

- Read and interpret historical documents
- Make historical connections between the past and present
- Understand the impact of geography on American history
- Analyze different historical interpretations
- Form an opinion on American history and articulate with historical data
- Demonstrate knowledge of history through oral and written expression

ELECTIVE PROGRAMS

LEGAL ISSUES

- Identify the major components of the criminal justice system
- Develop, state, and defend positions on key issues facing the criminal justice system.
- Understand the major constitutional protections of due process, equal protection, and other provisions as they relate to the criminal justice system
- Understand the sources, purposes, and functions of law
- Identify and analyze our society's crime problem in terms of causes and effects
- Understand the role and importance of law in the American constitutional system from a current and historical perspective

ECONOMICS

- Understand that productive resources are limited, therefore, people cannot have all the goods and services they want
- Understand the role that supply and demand, prices, and profits play in determining production and distribution in a market economy
- Understand the organization and role of business firms and analyze the various types of market structures in the United States Economy
- Understand the roles of government in a market economy
- Understand the means by which economic performance is measured
- Understand the role of money in financial institutions in a market economy
- Understand why individuals, business, and government trade goods and services and how trade affects the economies of the world

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

- Master the fundamental principles of psychology with regards to topics on learning, memory, perception, personality, and altered states of consciousness
- Apply theory to actual life experiences
- Evaluate and communicate opinions on various controversial topics in psychology through oral and written expression
- Participate in simple experimentation and analyze the outcome using data

PSYCHOLOGY II

- Master the fundamental principles of psychology with regards to research methodology, statistical analysis, and the physiology of the brain, psychological testing, abnormal behaviors and therapy
- Apply advanced theory to actual life experiences
- Use critical thinking skills through the design of an original experiment
- Understand primary source readings and written communication through the development of positions papers on various topics such as subject deception, the use of animals in experimentation, and the practice of tracking
- Apply verbal communication skills and productive cooperative effort through the practice of debate.
- Analyze and evaluate psychological concepts through the use of sample tests of personality assessment, experimental studies in prominent journals, in-class labs, and other sources