

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

The general purpose of a history and social studies education is to help students develop the skills and basic knowledge needed to be responsible, contributing members of both our democratic, pluralistic society and the increasingly interdependent global society. By studying the past and present, and by learning how to anticipate the future, students can begin to better understand the general workings of all societies, the specific aspects of existing societies, and the role they play as individuals in their community and in the world.

The three-year required sequence of Civics and World Societies, World and US History, and Twentieth Century World and U.S. History gives students an opportunity to hone their understanding of America's pluralistic society along with world geography and other societies, and to identify major historical eras and trends throughout history, from both western and non-western perspectives. Students, in the first year of the sequence, spend a semester focused on American Civics – the history and workings of our American form of government. During second semester,

students focus on mastering their understanding of world geography as they begin their exploration of how various societies develop different political, economic and cultural structures. This first-year course in Civics and World Societies provides students with the foundation they need to move into their studies of global history.

GRADE	COURSES (3.0 Credits Required)
9 Required	Civics/World Societies: Humanities Civics/World Societies: Humanities Honors
10 Required	World/U.S. History I, or World/U.S. History Honors
11 Required	Twentieth Century World/U.S. I, Twentieth Century World/U.S. Honors, or AP U.S. History
Electives	AP U.S. Government and Politics AP World History Cultural Geography History Goes to the Movies Psychology Public Issues/World Affairs School Innovation Seminar

The last two years of the sequence focus on World and US history, giving students an opportunity to sharpen their critical thinking skills by analyzing periods of transition and by interpreting the political, economic, and social influences of the past on the present. Students also will learn to identify and analyze the various time periods on all continents. The program reinforces student knowledge of major geographic features of the world, and has students analyze the relationships among geography; historical events; economic development; and racial and ethnic diversity throughout the world, including the United States. The study of citizenship, conflicts and their resolutions and relations among different nations and people enables students to learn how to interpret, evaluate and analyze information so they can make effective choices and decisions in their own lives. Finally, through the study of history and the role individuals have played in change – both evolutionary and revolutionary – students will better understand their role and responsibility in our democratic, pluralistic society.

In addition to the required three-year sequence, students are encouraged to elect other history and social studies courses that give focus to specific areas of history and the social sciences. Electives offer students a chance to pursue areas of personal interest while continuing to hone their critical thinking skills.

BHS Graduation Requirement

The Burlington High School graduate analyzes problems and the role of citizens using perspectives that reflect the differences among cultures and peoples by the application of knowledge and strategies learned from history and social studies.

To achieve the graduation requirement, a student must:

- *use historical evidence to formulate positions, viewpoints, and to understand current issues;*
- *apply geographical principles;*
- *explain democratic and constitutional principles and practices, compare them to other forms of government and demonstrate the ability to take action within the political system;*
- *explain how different cultures express, communicate, and instill their most important ideas;*
- *analyze basic economic problems confronting individuals, nations, and the world.*

COURSE OFFERINGS

NINTH GRADE

52301 Civics/World Societies: Humanities

1.0 Credit

Grade 9

52302 Civics/World Societies: Honors Humanities (Earned)

This year-long course dedicates one semester to the study of American Civics, and one semester to the introduction of world history through the examination of the rise and fall of societies and civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere, from about 500 bce to 1450 ce. American Civics focuses on the practical, modern-day operations of our federal, state, and local government systems with connections to historical events and philosophical ideas. Students are expected to demonstrate their

understanding of how our democratic republic functions and their roles and responsibilities as citizens. In addition, students examine issues and Constitutional protections connected to human rights. World Societies considers geography, politics, economics and culture, including religion, in the study of history. The course connects contemporary issues to the development and collapse of civilizations in Europe, Asia and Africa, from the early classical or axial age into the Middle Ages. **Students have the option to earn Honors status** in this class by demonstrating learning of core concepts, skills, and knowledge on identified assignments and assessments during the school year at an honors level. The earned Honors designation will be awarded at the end of year. This class is co-assigned and team-taught with English 9: Humanities. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication; Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Personal Development; and Cross-Cultural Understanding & Civic Engagement.

TENTH GRADE

World and U.S History (1450 to 1898) - Overview

The two courses below survey the development and history of cultures and nations during the early modern age. It has a particular focus on the United States and its development, influence and changing role during the 16th through 19th centuries. The course also focuses on how revolutions of the arts, of philosophy, of science, of politics, and of industry have affected and changed relationships among peoples and nations worldwide, with specific attention to issues of humanism, persecution, slavery and human rights. This course includes the study of industrialism, imperialism, capitalism, socialism, Marxism, communism and nationalism, and the affect such revolutions have had on human rights. In addition to content-specific learning, this course includes intensive work on critical reading, writing and thinking skills. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication; Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Personal Development; Cross-Cultural Understanding & Civic Engagement.

52304 World and U.S. History I

1.0 Credit

Grade 10

This is a college preparatory course, designed to acquaint students with important events, ideas, people and institutions that have shaped World, U.S. and Vermont History. It is also designed to help students develop the study and critical thinking skills that are needed to study at a college level. Wide and varied readings and resources both primary and secondary will be used. They will present conflicting interpretations, and students will be encouraged to deal with historical questions analytically and critically. Additional support is available to students outside of class to ensure success in the class.

52306 World and U.S. History I Honors

1.0 Credit

Grade 10

This course is designed to challenge students to study World and U.S. History in depth, with emphasis on central questions, problems, causes, decisions and interpretations. Students will think about and discuss forces, issues, ideas, themes and problems in the world, the U.S. and Vermont during this period. Wide and varied readings and resources both primary and secondary will be used. They will present conflicting interpretations and students will be encouraged to deal with historical questions analytically and critically. Students are expected to have strong reading and writing skills. *Prerequisite:* Earned honors in Civics/World Societies: Honors Humanities.

ELEVENTH GRADE

Twentieth Century World & U.S. History – Overview

The three courses below are the second year in the required two-year world and U.S. history sequence that focuses on the cultures and history of the World. We focus on the 20th Century and how the world of nations was shaped and directed by the emergence of the United States as the preeminent world power over the course of this century. The course continues the study of global cultural development and nation building, with attention given to world wars and genocide; liberation and nationalist movements; and human rights movements, including the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Links to the 21st century and ongoing global awareness highlight our study of the modern world. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication; Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Personal Development; Cross-Cultural Understanding & Civic Engagement.

52307 Twentieth Century World & U.S. History I

1.0 Credit

Grade 11

Students who select this class will examine the nature of the 20th Century and the roles of the United States of America in this century. The academic work is designed to create a strong knowledge of the content and enable students to have the skills to be responsible citizens of the 21st Century.

52309 Twentieth Century World & U.S. History Honors

1.0 Credit

Grade 11

Students who select this course will focus on the issues of the 20th Century at the college preparatory level. A special emphasis will be on the role of the United States in shaping this century. Great importance is directed towards reading, researching, and writing about the material at a level that prepares students for work expected of students at the college level. *Prerequisite:* B- or higher in World and U.S. History 1 Honors.

52310 AP U.S. History

1.0 Credit

Grade 11-12

This course is a college level survey in United States History that covers the Age of Exploration through to the present. The curriculum is based on the standards and instructional strategies approved by the College Board. Content covers the political, social/cultural, economic, and diplomatic events and how they collectively have contributed to the development of the United States. *Prerequisites:* B+ or higher in World and U.S. History 1 Honors, teacher recommendation, and completion of a summer reading and writing assignment.

ELECTIVE COURSES

52319 AP U.S. Government and Politics

1.0 Credit

Grade 12

This course is designed to give students an understanding of political science and how they relate to topics of contemporary history, and an Advanced Placement option for their senior year. It will prepare students for the US Government and Politics exam that students are required to take in May. The course will be taught in a seminar format using materials from both Advanced Placement sources and current events to examine the development of both our structural government and our contemporary political scene. Interwoven into the curriculum of the course are Topics in 20th and 21st Century History. Examples of topics that may be included are War and Peace, Colonialism to Globalism, Technological Transformations of the World, the Rise of Fundamentalism, and the Implications of Science in Today's World. Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication; Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Cross-Cultural Understanding & Civic Engagement.

52321 AP World History

1.0 Credit

Grade 12

This senior elective offers students an opportunity to challenge themselves academically as they prepare for and take the World History AP exam in the spring. This course includes a summer assignment prior to the fall term, and is designed to introduce students to college level reading, writing and critical thinking in the area of world history. The course approaches the study of world history thematically as it weaves through the development of human societies from the first agricultural revolution to today. Themes in world history include urbanization, conflict, gender issues, and the spread of ideas and beliefs. Students will have an opportunity to revisit the world and U.S. history they studied in prior history/social studies classes, but will take the study of the topics to a new level of understanding. Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed the required three-year sequence of history/social studies, earning a B or better in their 11th grade course. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication; Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Cross-Cultural Understanding & Civic Engagement.

52140 American Cultures 1 (English) + 52340 (Social Studies) – Semester 1

0.5 + 0.5 Credit

Grades 11-12

52141 American Cultures 2 (English) + 52341 (Social Studies) – Semester 2

0.5 + 0.5 Credit

This humanities course ties together American Literature, Art, Philosophy and History in a seminar-style class. The course is divided into two semesters; students may take one semester or both. It will meet one block every day and earn both English credit and elective credit in History. Each semester is dedicated to two themes. First semester will explore the themes of *Beliefs in America* and *Fears in America*. Second semester will explore the themes of *Civil War to Civil Rights* and *Is the American Dream Tarnished?* The theme for each quarter focuses on specific topics, but incorporates the historical context with literary historical development and conventions. While there will be class-wide readings and assignments, each student will choose a topic of study, and develop it into a student-conducted seminar. Texts under study will include but not be limited to such fiction as *Huckleberry Finn*, *Raisin in the Sun*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Children's Hour*, *The Crucible*, *Scarlet Letter*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, as well as assorted nonfiction essays and speeches including writings by Frederick Douglas, W.E.B. Dubois, Malcolm X, Cesar Chavez, Dee Brown, Helen Hunt Jackson, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Betty Friedan. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication, Cross-Cultural Understanding and Civic Engagement.

52324 Cultural Geography

0.5-1.0 Credit

Grades 10-12

This course is a global look at the development of human societies through the lens of the five features of geography: place, location, region, movement, and human interaction with the environment. The focus is on human geography and the interaction and influences of geography on the development of human societies. The course is split into two semesters, with each quarter focused on a specific theme in cultural geography. First semester will provide students with an opportunity to consider how geography influenced the development of human cultures, the roots of early human societies, and the impact of human interaction with the environment. Second semester will focus on more contemporary issues of human interaction with the environment. Topics will include a look at modern-day issues regarding cultural diffusion of belief systems, and ways in which humans are responding to the availability and access to resources in today's world. While students may choose to take one semester of this course for 0.5 credit, it is strongly encouraged that students enroll for both semesters. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication; Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Cross-Cultural Understanding & Civic Engagement.

52315 History Goes to the Movies

1.0 Credit

Grades 11-12

This course investigates how historical events and personalities have been portrayed in film. Students will consider historical accuracy and film literacy as they explore how history is portrayed in movies and how the year of a film might influence its interpretation of history. Students will study this relationship through assigned readings and writing, and by watching such films as *Schindler's List*, *The Field*, *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Green Beret*. Seniors are given first preference; juniors admitted on a space available basis. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication; Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Cross-Cultural Understanding & Civic Engagement.

52311 Psychology

1.0 Credit

Grades 11-12

Psychology is the study of human behavior and mental processes. Introduction to Psychology will examine the history of psychology as well as the different currents of thoughts as pertain to development, cognition, learning, motivation, sensation, emotions, social psychology and mental disorders. Students will be introduced to the theories and research of Freud, Adler, Jung, Skinner, Fromm, Kahneman, Chomsky and others. Students also will learn how to apply some of these psychological teachers to their own lives to more cogently address their own problems and to cope with the intricacies of their inner lives.

Seniors are given first preference; juniors admitted on a space available basis. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication; Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Cross-Cultural Understanding & Civic Engagement.

52313 Public Issues and World Affairs

1.0 Credit

Grades 10-12

This course is designed for students interested in studying 21st Century world, national, state and local issues using 21st Century information-gathering tools. Students will examine how the media – with a focus on electronic tools – cover politics, peace and war, government, social trends, cultural situations, the environment and other contemporary issues related to high school students and their interests. Students will select topics for research to examine particular events, personalities, and issues that influence the state, the nation, and the world; and analyze how media informs the public. This is a discussion-based class with the opportunity to learn how to develop, articulate, and argue opinions and positions. Seniors are given first preference; juniors and sophomores are admitted on a space available basis. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication; Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Cross-Cultural Understanding & Civic Engagement.

52961 School Innovation Seminar

1.0 Credit

Grades 10-12

School Innovation Seminar (SIS) is a student-centered social science course for BHS students, open to students in grades 10-12 who want to learn more about school—and about learning itself. In the first quarter, we will focus on the psychology of learning, including brain science, motivation, mindset, and learning styles. Next, the course explores the sociology of education. How are schools organized? Why are schools set up the way they are? How should schools evolve to meet the needs of today's world? In the second semester, students will be introduced to key principles of social science research, and design an individual research project that focused on authentic issues here at BHS. Overall, the course is a unique opportunity to apply a social science lens to school itself, and to engage directly in the world of school change. SIS includes many extended learning opportunities including conferences, trainings, community partnerships, and direct engagement in school redesign initiatives. Grades are determined through student-centered, portfolio-driven assessment. *Primary Graduate Expectations:* Effective Communication; Critical Thinking & Problem Solving; Cross-Cultural Understanding & Civic Engagement; Curiosity & Creativity.