

## **SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES - WILLOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL**

### **SS12123 Human Geography**

This course engages student interest in the social sciences by connecting contemporary "what" and "where" questions to the historical "why" questions. Students will engage in the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped the human understanding of, use of, and alteration of Earth's surfaces. It explores the location of countries and human institutions (ethnic groups, cities, and industries) and examines why and how they exist. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its historical and environmental consequences.

Semesters: 2

### **SS12163 Sheltered Human Geography**

Prerequisite: Placement in this class is based on recommendations of both the E.S.L. and Guidance departments.

Designed for students with limited English language proficiency, this course engages student interest in the social sciences by connecting contemporary "what" and "where" questions to the historical "why" questions. Students will engage in the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped the human understanding of, use of, and alteration of Earth's surfaces. It explores the location of countries and human institutions (ethnic groups, cities, and industries) and examines why and how they exist. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its historical and environmental consequences.

Semesters: 2

### **SS13113 AP Human Geography**

This honors level course emphasizes the importance of geography as a field of inquiry and discusses the emergence of academic geography in nineteenth century Europe. Geographic concepts emphasized throughout the course are location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization. These concepts are basic to students' understanding of spatial interaction and spatial behavior, the dynamics of human population growth and movement, patterns of culture, economic activities, political organization of space, and human settlement patterns, particularly urbanization. A satisfactory score on the Advanced Placement test could result in students receiving college credit and/or advanced placement in college.

Semesters: 2

### **SS32073 U.S. History**

This course surveys the history of our country; it traces American history from post-Civil War through today focusing on the development and implications of nationalism, sectionalism, democracy, industrialism and foreign affairs. Teachers use a variety of approaches to help students understand concepts and topics in U.S. history and reading, writing, and thinking skills are practiced as students prepare to become intelligent decision makers in the 21st century United States.

Semesters: 2

### **SS32083 Sheltered U.S. History**

Prerequisite: Placement in this class is based on recommendations of both the E.S.L. and Guidance departments.

Many issues confront American citizens in our complex world. Sheltered US History focuses on integrating the issues of American history such as cultural, pluralism, imperialism, foreign policy, and bridging the gap of the English language and vocabulary. This course helps the student to understand the roots of these issues and link the comprehension and understanding of the English language. A wide variety of activities are used to develop these skills.

Semesters: 2

### **SS32073 AS U.S. History - American Studies**

This double-period American Studies course uses U.S. History as a framework for a one year chronological study of political, cultural and military events. Such topics as drama, poetry, music, art, novels and intellectual history are integrated. The wide variety of class activities is limited only by the creativity of students who enroll; cooperative strategies are frequently used in class. Students who choose this option will receive credit for both United States history and English.

Semesters: 2 (2 periods per day)

### **SS34083 AP United States History**

This high-weighted course is a survey of the American past from the time of European discovery and settlement of the continent to the present. Students are required to draw upon analytical and interpretive skills to deal with the factual knowledge and problems of United States history. Students will develop critical thinking skills to assess a variety of historical materials, including both primary and secondary sources, and weigh their relevance, reliability and their importance—all goals of historical scholarship. Class discussions and independent library research are integral activities in each unit, and formal written essays will be used in conjunction with tests to evaluate student progress during the year. A satisfactory score on the AP test could result in students receiving college credit and/or advanced placement in college.

Semesters: 2

### **SS44123 AP Psychology**

This high-weighted course covers all areas of psychology in depth. Students will learn the major core concepts and theories of psychology; they will learn to define key terms and to use these terms in their everyday vocabulary. They will also learn the basic skills of psychological research, devise simple research projects, and evaluate the general validity of research reports. Students will be able to develop critical thinking skills, build their reading, writing and discussion skills, learn about the ethical standards governing the work of psychologists, and to apply psychological concepts to their own lives. A satisfactory score on the Advanced Placement test could result in students receiving college credit and/or advanced placement in college.

Semesters: 2

**SS55135 Sociology**

Why do we behave like human beings? Learn why American society works the way it does and gain some insight into why one acts the way they do. We will take an in-depth look at American society while exploring the various concepts of sociology while blending in some concepts from social psychology. The main topic areas of the course are human development, deviance, minorities and prejudice, group behavior and influence, social institutions, social and cultural change and moral development.

Semester: 1

**SS42145 Economics**

This course studies the basic principles of macro and micro economics to understand our current economic situation as well as the components of a market economy. It is a study of the American economic system - the role of government and the system of taxation, as well as its role in the global economy. The course is highly recommended for college bound students to fulfill the economics requirement.

Semester: 1

**SS45175 Sheltered Economics**

Prerequisite: Placement in this class is based on recommendations of both the E.S.L. and Guidance departments.

Designed for students with limited English language proficiency, this course includes vocabulary and comprehension development as part of a look at the American economic system. Students in this course will look at the basic principles of economics and their daily application to the lives of students. Students will explore the role of the consumer, businessman, and government in shaping their economic world. A key goal of this class is to provide students with the knowledge to make good economic choices in the world in which they live.

Semesters: 1

**SS44245 AP Microeconomics**

In this high-weighted course, students will be introduced to the principles of economics and their application to decision making, both as consumers and producers. Topics in microeconomics include: the market system, supply and demand, the determination of price and output levels, surpluses and shortages, and market structures such as monopoly, oligopoly, and perfect competition. Students will learn to apply basic economic principles to personal decision-making, as well as to analysis of the economy's operation. A satisfactory score on the Advanced Placement test could result in students receiving college credit and/or advanced placement in college.

Semesters: 1

**SS44255 AP Macroeconomics**

Prerequisite: Completion of AP Microeconomics is recommended.

In this high weighted course, students will be introduced to elementary macroeconomic principles and methods of analysis. Topics in the course include: the national income, the monetary system, inflation, recession, national debt, international trade, and economic growth. Macroeconomic principles will be used to analyze selected social issues such as taxation, federal spending, foreign trade, and stabilization policies. The class will track the performance of the economy as a whole. A satisfactory score on the Advanced Placement test could result in students receiving college credit and/or advanced placement in college.

Semesters: 1

**SS32163 Sheltered United States Government**

Prerequisite: Placement in this class is based on recommendations of both the E.S.L. and Guidance departments.

The purpose of this class is to provide an opportunity for students with limited English language skills to study our American political system while working on the development of comprehension and vocabulary skills. Students will learn the basics of the American government and the process of governmental decision making at the local, state, and national levels. Areas of study will include the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, campaigns and elections, and the Constitution. Current events and technology will be used extensively to enhance the learning opportunities.

Semesters: 1

**SS55155 United States Government**

What are one's rights and responsibilities in a democratic society? How does the American legal and political system work? Students will learn the basics of the American political system and the process of governmental decision-making at the local, state, and national levels. Areas of study will include the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, campaigns and elections, and the U.S. and Illinois Constitution.

Semester: 1

**SS44265 AP United States Government & Politics**

Students will develop an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This high weighted course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of many examples. Through this course the student will gain a familiarity with various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideals that constitute U.S. politics. This course will cover college level topics such as, the U.S. Constitution, American Political Parties, Civil Rights, Individual Liberties and the Development of Foreign and Domestic Policy. This course prepares the student for the AP examination. A satisfactory score on the Advanced Placement test could result in students receiving college credit and/or advanced placement in college.

Semesters: 1

**SS44275 AP Comparative Government & Politics**

Students will develop conceptual tools necessary to understand some of the world's diverse political structures and practices. This high-weighted course will include the study of countries and their governments and general concepts used to interpret the relationships and institutions found in national and global politics. Six countries will be the emphasis of this course, which provide students a foundation for developing paradigms of different types of political systems. Study will be focused on topics such as political authority and power, and relationships between states and different political systems. This course prepares the student for the AP examination. A satisfactory score on the Advanced Placement test could result in students receiving college credit and/or advanced placement in college.

Semesters: 1

**SS24093 AP European History**

This challenging course provides an in-depth study of Western Civilization from the dawn of the Renaissance (1450) to the fall of communism (1989). In addition to political history, this course will also cover aspects of culture, including philosophy and art. This elective course has been designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam in European History. A college level textbook will be used for the course, as well as supplementary materials. Students should expect to be assessed through objective tests, document-based essay questions, class discussions, library research, and simulations. A satisfactory score on the Advanced Placement test could result in students receiving college credit and/or advanced placement in college.

Semesters: 2

**SS35113 The World of Psychology**

All of us have wondered at times what makes people tick. How do we develop and mature? How do we cope with stress in our lives? What forms our personality? The methods and theories of psychology will be explored with plenty of opportunities for discussion. The course is especially beneficial for those who are either interested in a career in psychology or are simply interested in gaining a better understanding of their own behavior, and the behavior of others.

Semesters: 2