

# ***SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES***

**SOCIOLOGY** **4931.R000.X**  
**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 0.5**

**Prerequisite/Comments: None**

This one-semester class for upperclassmen offers a study of human behavior from a sociological point of view. Students will examine culture and socialization, as well as the effect of challenges from poverty, economic inequality, deviance, racism, ethnocentricity, and other social issues affecting US society today. Class time is used for completion of projects and activities to render a minimal amount of homework.

Learning ventures include analysis and discussions of readings and analyzing films that illustrate social problems and issues. A final project explores existing subcultures and countercultures and the impact of these groups on society.

**PSYCHOLOGY** **4938.R000.X**  
**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 0.5**

**Prerequisite/Comments: None**

Students explore major psychological theories. They learn about human behavior and development, perception and learning, memory and thought, motivation and emotion; personality theories; psychological disorders; and other related topics. Students also practice the skills of observation and analysis used in modern social sciences.

**The American Experience through Music &Film (GL)**  
**Part A** **4932.R000.X**  
**Part B** **4935.R000.X**  
**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 0.5**  
**each**

**Prerequisite/Comments: Students can take Part A and/or Part B, in any order.**

This course is a semester-long, social studies elective. Students view classic American films and listen to and analyze different music genres (including rock, pop, hip-hop). Students examine America's identity and culture by analyzing music, film, art, and television. The goal is for students to gain a greater appreciation and a better understanding of their society and culture by examining America's cultural and social past. The course requirements include 3 group projects (1 each six weeks), in-class assignments and discussions, and approximately one hour of homework each week.

**The American Experience through Music &Film (Honors)**  
**4932.H000.X Part A** **4932.H100.X Part B**  
**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 0.5**  
**each**

**Prerequisite/Comments: Students can take Part A and/or Part B, in any order.**

This course is a semester-long, social studies elective. Students view classic American films and listen to and analyze different music genres (including rock, pop, hip-hop). Students examine America's identity and culture by analyzing music, film, art, and television. The goal is for students to gain a greater appreciation and a better understanding of their society and culture by examining America's cultural and social past. The course requirements include projects, readings, critical and analytical writings and commentary, discussions, in-class activities, and approximately three hours of homework each week.

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY** **4932.R100.X**  
**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 0.5**

**Prerequisite/Comments: None**

African-American History Part 1 is a fall semester, half credit elective which will explore the inspiring history and culture of African-American people over the past four hundred years. Students will be asked to present one mini-lesson on a chosen topic, read an outside novel and write a paper on it, and make three musical presentations. Grades will be based on presentations, papers and tests. Some highlights include guest speakers, music every class, award winning films and a soul food brunch. Students are encouraged to also take Part 2 of this class in the spring semester, which will continue the course in more depth, but is not required.

**LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES** **4932.R300.X**  
**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 0.5**  
**Prerequisite/Comments: None**

Latin American Studies is one semester grade level elective Latin American Studies is a one semester grade level elective that examines the history and culture of Latin America. Several assignments are project based and students are given class time to complete the work. The homework load is minimal and confined to non-traditional homework with options including cooking, painting or conducting an interview. Students prepare and serve a Latin American dish, watch several full-length films, and hear guest speakers. Students learn about Latin American heroes, athletes, musicians, dictators, artists, conquerors, poets, drug runners, storytellers, revolutionaries, actors, and immigrants seeking a better life.

**SPANISH LANGUAGE**  
**LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES** **2354.H0DL.Y**

**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 0.5**  
**Prerequisite/Comments:**  
**Dual Language/Native Speakers**

This course offers a general summary of the complex and diverse region we call Latin America. It follows a roughly chronological approach, beginning with Pre-Colombian ways of living to the encounters between Native and Europeans continuing through the contemporary era. Discussions and activities will consider themes such as the institutional racism, legacy of colonialism and nationalism. The onset of modern movements based on racial, ethnic, political, religious and economic strife including those that lead to internal and international migration. The course will emphasize the import of global economic, political, and cultural trends of the region. The goal of this course is to educate students on how current social practices and inequities came into being and how to help them find a voice for social justice.

**ASIAN STUDIES** **4932.R400.X**

**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 0.5**  
**Prerequisite/Comments: None**

Asian Studies is a one semester grade level elective that examines the society and culture of Asia with emphasis on China, Japan, India and Asian-Americans. Topics include food, martial arts, haiku, yoga, tai chi, tea, manga, anime, gardening, yoga, communism, cricket, traveling, cities, Asian-American impact on the United States, education in Asia and the impact of East Asia on the world economy. Students can take the course pass/fail. Several assignments are project based and students are given class time to complete the work. The homework load is minimal and confined to non-traditional homework with options such as cooking or conducting an interview. Students prepare and serve an Asian dish and research an Asian country, watch several full-length films, take a field trip and learn about the region through the teacher's travels. Class is available to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

**JUDICIAL SYSTEMS (Street Law)** **4932.R500.X**  
**Grade Placement 11-12** **Credit: 0.5**  
**Prerequisite: None**

“Street Law” is a one-semester social studies elective. It provides an introduction to fundamental legal concepts and practical information about the US legal system. Students learn about the criminal justice system, principles of criminal and civil law, and the rights and responsibilities of young adults as they establish credit, purchase automobiles, lease apartments, start families, and accept full-time employment. The curriculum includes case studies, role-playing exercises, mock trials and other problem-solving activities.

**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES** **4932.H200.X**  
**Grade Placement: 10–12** **Credit: 0.5**  
**Prerequisite/Comments: None**

Contemporary Issues is a semester long, honors-level elective focusing on major issues of the day. The course engages students in discussions, reading, and research to better understand the challenges facing the modern world. Topics addressed include globalization, international relations, human rights, genocide, 21st century technological advancements, and global environmental issues. The course is designed to provide advanced work for students in developing research skills, textual reading analysis, research paper writing and presentations.

**MODEL UNITED NATIONS** **4942.H000.Y**  
**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 1.0**  
**Prerequisite/Comments: None**

"Are you interested in learning about the major challenges facing the world and finding solutions to those problems? Do you like to debate and meet students from other schools? Model United Nations is a one year Social Studies elective open to all students at Austin High in grades 10, 11 and 12. No previous experience is required. Students will learn how to successfully participate and plan Model United Nations simulations, including parliamentary procedure, learn about the history and impact of the United Nations, and will study current events and some of the major issues facing the world today. Students will be expected to participate in a minimum number of Model United Nations simulations in which they will work with students from around the world. Simulations are held in places like Austin, Waco, San Antonio, Chicago, Monterrey, Mexico, and many other places. In addition, students will help to develop a simulation held at Austin High School in which other schools are invited. Students are given class time for preparation, research, reading and preparing position papers.

**AP PSYCHOLOGY (Part A)** **4938.P000.X**  
**AP PSYCHOLOGY (Part B)** **4942.H000.X**  
**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 1.0**  
**Prerequisite/Comments: Students must take both parts of the course.**

AP Psychology is a year-long college-level introduction to the concepts and methods of psychology. The course content is presented in depth and at an accelerated pace. Students learn the principal theories of psychology and study factors that affect human behavior and development, perception, learning, memory, thought, motivation, emotions and psychological disorders, and apply their knowledge through projects, labs and challenging exams. Homework of approximately 45-75 minutes per block is essential to success. AP students prepare to take the Advanced Placement examination in May for potential college credit.

**AP EUROPEAN HISTORY** **4635.P000.Y**  
**Grade Placement: 11-12** **Credit: 1.0**  
**Prerequisite/Comments: None**

Open to students willing to dedicate to a college-level Liberal Arts course; students will be expected to do the reading and come to class prepared to participate. This yearlong class provides an introduction to the major cultural, political, economic, and social developments that have shaped Europe from 1450 to the present. If interested in the period of history when Europe emerged from the early Renaissance to the rise of Imperialism and Industrialism to become the ascendant region on the globe, and then plunge itself into destructive war, ideological battles, and ethnic terror, then this class is for you. In addition to a college level text, course materials will include art, music and literature. Students will have a book review, movie review, and project each semester. All tests are composed of multiple choice and essay-type questions similar to those on the AP exam. Students will use a sophisticated college text, write document-based essays on a regular basis, do group work, research historical events and interpretations. There will be approximately 4-6 hours of homework per week.

**ETHNIC STUDIES, PT. 1** **4932.H400.X**  
**Grade Placement: 10-12** **Credit: 0.5**  
**Prerequisite/Comments: None**

The Ethnic Studies course introduces students to the concepts of identity and history through the lenses of race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, sexual orientation, indigeneity, and culture. Seeing themselves and their communities in historical context, students gain a deeper appreciation of the contributions and complex experiences of diverse groups. Students study the local, state, and national history from pre-colonization to the present with a critical focus on the movements and changes promoting equity and justice. This course emphasizes research skills, creativity, connectedness, collaboration, critical thinking, and empathy to promote college and career readiness. Students will gain a thoughtful and critical perspective through this course, becoming powerful advocates for change. As this course is weighted, students can expect 30-60 minutes of homework per block.

**ETHNIC STUDIES PT. 2** **4932.H500.X**  
**Grade Placement 10-12** **Credit: 0.5**  
**Prerequisite/Comments: Students must take Ethnic Studies Pt. 1 in order to take Pt. 2**

The Ethnic Studies course expands and deepens students' understanding of identity and history through the lenses of race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, sexual orientation, indigeneity, and culture. Seeing themselves and their communities in historical context, students gain a deeper appreciation of the contributions and complex experiences of diverse groups. Students study the local, state, and national history from pre-colonization to the present with a critical focus on the movements and changes promoting equity and justice. This course emphasizes research skills, creativity, connectedness, collaboration, critical thinking,

and empathy to promote college and career readiness. Students will gain a thoughtful and critical perspective through this course, becoming powerful advocates for change. As this course is weighted, students can expect 30-60 minutes of homework per block.

**LOGIC 1** **4935.R100.X**  
**Grade Placement: 9-12** **Credit: 0.5**  
**Prerequisite/Comments: None**

Logic 1 will provide content in informal logic, which includes logical fallacies, inductive reasoning, strong versus weak and fallacious arguments, and probability. It also offers content in formal logic, or the logic that pertains to pure reasoning in the abstract—deductive reasoning, valid or invalid arguments, and certainty.