

New Bedford Public Schools



High School Social Studies

REQUIRED/CORE COURSES

UNITED STATES HISTORY I (Constitutional Period to Reconstruction)

In this course the students will examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States during the Constitutional era. They will learn about the important political and economic factors that contributed to development of the United States and will examine the writing and key ideas of the U.S. Constitution. Students will also study the basic framework of American democracy and the basic concepts of American government such as popular sovereignty, federalism, establishment of political parties, and economic and social change. Students will learn about the growth of sectional conflict, how sectional conflict led to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War, including Reconstruction. Students will be expected to conduct independent research and make class presentations, both group and individual.

UNITED STATES HISTORY II (Industrialization to the Present)

The students will analyze the causes and consequences of the Industrial Revolution and America's growing role in diplomatic relations. The students will study the goals and accomplishments of the Progressive movement and the New Deal. The students will also learn about the various factors that led to America's entry into World War II as well as the consequences of World War II on American life. Finally, students will study the causes and course of the Cold War, important economic and political changes during the Cold War, including the Civil Rights movement, and recent events and trends that have shaped modern-day America.

WORLD HISTORY

The students will study the rise of the nation state in Europe, the French Revolution, and the economic and political roots of the modern world, including the origins and consequences of the Industrial Revolution, nineteenth century political reform in Western Europe, and imperialism in Africa, Asia, and South America. They will explain the causes and consequences of the great military and economic events of the twentieth century, including World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, and the Russian and Chinese revolutions. Finally, students will study the rise of nationalism and the continuing persistence of political, ethnic, and religious conflict in many parts of the world.

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New Bedford students shine with academic excellence.*

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY (Grades 10, 11 and 12)

Semester 1: Designed as a college survey course taught in the high school for the very highly motivated college-bound student, the course will provide the student with an in-depth study of United States History from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Students will examine domestic and foreign policy, the Constitution and constitutional crises, presidential elections, as well as social and cultural trends. Students will be expected to analyze a variety of materials, graphs and charts, and utilize primary and secondary sources. Short papers on specialized topics will be expected on a regular basis and a research paper is obligatory.

Semester 2: This American history course, the second semester of the Advanced Placement program, is designed to provide the student with a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the history of the United States during the twentieth century. Thus, the student can expect to undertake studies of the social, intellectual and economic currents of the twentieth century, as well as American art, architecture, literature, the principles, and traditions of American law. Intensive readings of college material, the preparation of research essays and independent study are an integral part of the curriculum. The course will conclude with a comprehensive review of the subject material necessary for achieving success on the Advanced Placement exam.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (Grades 11 and 12)

Semester 1: Designed as a college level course taught in the high school for the highly motivated college-bound student, this course will provide the student an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. Students will engage in an in-depth study of the important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics. Topics to be discussed in this course will include an analysis of the historical and contemporary Constitutional developments, the rise and role of political parties in American government and the patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences. Short papers on specialized topics will be expected on a regular basis and a research paper is obligatory.

Semester 2: The second semester of the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics course is designed to provide the student with a deeper analysis of the important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics. Topics to be discussed this semester will include the organization and powers of the major political institutions in the United States, the formation of public policy and the development of individual rights and liberties and their impact on citizens. Short papers on specialized topics will be expected on a regular basis and a research paper is obligatory. The course will conclude with a comprehensive review of the subject material necessary for achieving success on the Advanced Placement Examination.

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ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY (Grades 11 and 12)

Semester 1: Designed for the highly motivated, college bound student, this course will provide students with an in-depth study of European history since 1450. The course will introduce students to the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. The students will understand the development of contemporary institutions, as well as the role of continuity and change in present day society and politics. Students enrolled in AP European history are expected to develop an understanding of the principal themes in modern European history, as well as the ability to analyze and interpret historical evidence and to express historical understanding in writing. Short papers will be expected on a regular basis and a research paper is obligatory.

Semester 2: The second semester will continue the study of European History since 1450. Students will continue their study of the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the contemporary world. Intensive readings of college material, the preparation of research essays, and independent study are an integral part of the curriculum. The development of the skills of historical analysis, interpretation, and expression that began in AP European History I will continue during this semester. The course will conclude with a comprehensive review of the subject material necessary for achieving success on the Advanced Placement Examination.

ELECTIVES

Honors Economics (Grade 12)

This course is intended for the highly motivated college-bound student who may be interested in pursuing a career in a field related to business. Students in this course **must** have excellent reading comprehension, writing, and math skills. This course will examine the American economic system by studying microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts such as scarcity and choice, supply and demand, production and productivity, the business cycle, fiscal policy, monetary policy, and investing. Students will utilize various forms of technology for economic and investment research purposes.

Multicultural Studies (Grades 11 and 12)

This engaging elective is designed for all motivated students and will give them the opportunity to explore the rich multicultural heritage that makes up America and is reflected in our local community. Key themes that will be covered will include: cultural identity, conflict and change, preserving our traditions, stereotyping, racism and hate groups. Class and group projects will be undertaken throughout the semester which will allow students to explore various cultures and topical issues. The instructor and students will also initiate community and school-wide projects with the goal of promoting a greater understanding of multicultural issues as they impact our diverse community.

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Honors Psychology (Grade 12)

This course is presented as a college course for highly motivated seniors. Questions to be explored include: how people are motivated, how they think, how their personalities develop, how memories work, what effect certain experiences have on them, how they change and grow older, and why some people respond to life events in maladaptive ways. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the active and dynamic process of discovery and to engage in critical thinking in response to information that is engaging and personally relevant. The course will expose the student to general psychology, abnormal psychology, and other specialized psychological fields.

College Psychology (Grade 12)

This course is intended for a student who is interested in preparing for the field of work, business, technical careers or in attending college or other post-secondary school. Questions to be explored include: how people are motivated, how they think, how their personalities develop, how memories work, what effect certain experiences have on them, how they change and grow older, and why some people respond to life events in maladaptive ways. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the active and dynamic process of discovery and to engage in critical thinking in response to information that is engaging and personally relevant. The course will expose the student to general psychology, abnormal psychology, and other specialized psychological fields.

United States Government (Grades 11 & 12)

The major goal of the course is to provide students with an understanding of the American system of government at the national, state, and local levels in order to become a more responsible and knowledgeable citizen. The philosophical and historical foundations of our form of government are presented, followed by an in-depth examination of the Constitution. The nature of politics, parties, and the election process will be thoroughly studied as will America's role in the rapidly changing global community.

History and Culture of New Bedford (Grades 11 and 12)

This engaging elective is designed for all motivated students and will give them the opportunity to explore the rich history, culture and contributions of the people of the city of New Bedford. The instructor will use a hands-on-topical approach to cover the key themes of the course, which will include: the establishment and growth of the whaling industry, the city's role in the American Revolution, the Abolitionist movement in New Bedford, and the rise and decline of the textile industry.

Honors Law and Legal Systems (Grade 12)

This course is intended for the highly motivated college-bound senior interested in pursuing a career in law or law enforcement. Students in this course **must** have excellent reading comprehension and writing skills. The course will examine the structure, operation, and constitutional protections of the U.S. legal system. Students will study the role played by the judicial branch in the creation of case law in areas such as search and seizure, interrogations, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and equal protection under the law. Students will also engage in field trips and have the opportunity to learn from visiting professionals in various law related fields. Written and oral case reports will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. *Students will be required to participate in a community service component to the course with the New Bedford Youth Court.*

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Honors Criminal Justice (Grades 11 & 12)

This course is designed as an entry level course in the study of law and the Criminal Justice system for students intending to pursue a career in the legal profession. The students will develop an understanding of the functions of the various agencies and components of the criminal system and the interrelationships between them.

Emphasis will be placed on the study of landmark case law and its applications on our society. This is an accelerated course with legal vocabulary as well as the interpretation of significant cases and Supreme Court decisions. A study of all three branches of the criminal justice system will be examined with an emphasis on personal liberty law. *Students will be required to participate in a community service component to the course with the New Bedford Youth Court.*

College Criminal Justice (Grades 11 & 12)

This course is designed as an entry level course in the study of law and the Criminal Justice system for students intending to pursue a career in law enforcement. The students will develop an understanding of the functions of the various agencies and components of the criminal system and the interrelationships between them. The evolution of law and its application in our society as well as the Bill of Rights, citizen's personal rights and restrictions will be emphasized. This course is designed to give students an understanding of how our criminal justice system works in our society and how it will affect students' lives. *Students will be required to participate in a community service component to the course with the New Bedford Youth Court.*

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