

Social Studies Curriculum

Nordonia High School offers three core courses that are required for graduation. Each course may be taken at any level (College Preparatory, Honors, or Advanced Placement). Students may move between levels from year-to-year. AP courses do not have prerequisites. Electives can be taken in any order during the grades indicated. *Courses noted with an asterisk require an end-of-course examination upon completion.

Required Core Course Offerings:

Grade 9	CP World History (Gr. 9)	Honors World History (Gr. 9)	AP World History (Gr. 9 - 12)
Grade 10	CP US History* (Gr. 10)	Honors US History* (Gr. 10)	AP US History* (Gr. 10 - 12)
Grades 11-12	CP Government* (Gr. 11 - 12)	Honors Government* (Gr. 11 - 12)	AP Government* (Gr. 11 - 12)

- ***Graduation Requirements for the class of 2026***

3 credits of Social Studies including...

- 1 year of World History or AP Human Geography*
- 1 year of US History or AP African American Studies*
- 1 semester of Government*
- 1 semester of a Social Studies Elective*

- ***Financial Literacy for the class of 2026 and following***

- *Please note that this course is required for graduation and may be taught by the Social Studies department but cannot be used as a Social Studies elective.*
- *Financial Literacy is a semester class worth .5 credit hours*

- ***Honors Diploma***

Three credits in World and US History, Government and a choice elective are required for graduation, however students who wish to earn an honors diploma need to earn an additional credit (four total) by passing a combination of at least two additional electives or by passing AP Economics and AP Government or AP Psychology.

Elective Offerings: Students are required to take at least one.

Sports History (Gr. 10-12)	War Theory (Gr. 10-12)	African American Studies (Gr. 10 -12)	History Through the Arts (Gr. 10 -12)
Psychology (Gr. 11 - 12)	Sociology (Gr. 11 - 12)	Women's Studies (Gr. 11 - 12)	Economics (Gr. 11 - 12)
	Contemporary Issues (Gr. 12)	Your Life (Gr. 12)	

AP Offerings: Students are encouraged to take at least one.

AP World History (Gr. 9 -12)	AP Human Geography (Gr. 9 -12)
AP African American Studies* (Gr. 10 -12)	AP US History* (Gr. 10 - 12)
AP Economics (Gr. 11 -12)	AP Government* (Gr. 11 - 12)
AP Psychology (Gr. 12)	

World History

Course Number: 4100

Credit: 1

Length: year

Grade: 9

This course is the continuation of the Middle School World History program. The course will focus on the modern world beginning with the emergence of modern nations. The course will trace the blending of social, political, economic and cultural developments. The continuity of history is shown through an emphasis on place, time, and significance. Critical thinking and geography/map skills are developed using cooperative groups and project based learning with an emphasis on work done in class.

Honors World History

Course Number: 4110

Credit: 1

Length: year

Grades: 9

This course is the continuation of the Middle School World History program. The course will focus on the modern world beginning with the emergence of modern nations. The course will trace the blending of social, political, economic and cultural developments. The continuity of history is shown through an emphasis on place, time, and significance. Critical thinking and geography/map skills are developed using primary source reading and independent research. Document Based Questions and other forms of writing and independent work done outside of class will be required.

AP World History

Course Number: 4140

Credit: 1

Length: year

Grades: 9 – 12

Advanced Placement World History is an intensive study focusing on students' ability to think conceptually about world history from 8000 BCE to the present. The course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to take the Advanced Placement World History exam for possible college credit. The course covers five themes: environment, culture, state-building, economic systems, and social structure. The course encompasses five geographic regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. This is equivalent to an introductory college course and is for students with a particular interest in history. **Any student taking an AP World History is REQUIRED and will be prepared to take the AP World History exam in May.**

AP Human Geography

Course Number: 4150

Credit: 1

Length: year

Grades: 9 – 12

Advanced Placement Human Geography is a course in which students Explore how humans have understood, used, and changed the surface of Earth. You'll use the tools and thinking processes of geographers to examine patterns of human population, migration, and land use.

Any student taking an AP Human Geography is REQUIRED and will be prepared to take the AP World History exam in May.

US History

Course Number: 4200

Credit: 1

Length: year

Grades: 10

This course is the continuation of the U.S. History program in the Middle School. Following a brief study of how historians reconstruct the past and a review of the period before 1865, the emphasis of the course centers on a chronological survey of U.S. History during the 20th century. In this course the review is comprehensive and the survey is in great depth. Critical thinking and geography/map skills are developed using cooperative groups and project based learning with an emphasis on work done in class.

Honors US History

Course Number: 4210

Credit: 1

Length: year

Grades: 10

This course is the continuation of the U.S. History program in the Middle School. Following a brief study of how historians reconstruct the past and a review of the period before 1865, the emphasis of the course centers on a chronological survey of U.S. History during the 20th century. In this course the review is more intensive and the survey is in greater depth. Critical thinking and geography/map skills are developed using primary source reading and independent research. Document Based Questions and other forms of writing and independent work done outside of class will be required.

AP US History

Course Number: 4220

Credit: 1

Length: year

Grades: 10 – 12

This course is an intensive survey of United States History. It is designed to provide the student with a rigorous knowledge of United States History as well as the skills necessary to take the Advanced Placement U.S. History exam. Writing skills, analysis, primary-source work and appreciation for other perspectives will be emphasized. This is equivalent to an introductory college survey course and should only be attempted with the recommendation of previous Social Studies teachers and the Guidance Department. **Any student taking AP U.S. History is REQUIRED and will be prepared to take the AP U.S. History exam in May.**

Government

Course Number: 4300

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grade: 11 - 12

The features and functions of government and the political system are studied under the following topics: Foundations, rights, federal legislative branch, federal executive branch, federal judicial branch, state and local governments, and comparison and contrast with the governmental systems or other nations. Preparation of the student to be an active and effective participant in the political and economic process will use cooperative groups and project based learning with an emphasis on work done in class. *

Honors Government

Course Number: 4310

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grades: 11 - 12

The features and functions of government and the political system are studied under the following topics: Foundations, rights, federal legislative branch, federal executive branch, federal judicial branch, state and local governments, and comparison and contrast with the governmental systems or other nations. An emphasis on written and independent work will prepare the student to be an informed participant in the political and economic process.*

AP Government

Course Number: 4320

Credit: 1

Length: year

Grades: 11 - 12

Advanced Placement Government and Politics is a year-long, intensive experiential survey of governmental issues at the national level. This class is designed to provide an in-depth focus on the knowledge and skills necessary to take the Advanced Placement Government exam. Work is at the college-level, and the motivation and ability of the students must be at a level equal to that of the material covered. **Any student taking AP Government & Politics is REQUIRED to take the AP Government & Politics exam and the AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam in May.**

Economics

Course Number: 4400

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grades: 11 - 12

Economic principles and practices are studied under the following topics: Introduction to economics, business behavior, role of financial institutions, overall economy, and comparative thinking skills. There is an emphasis on written and independent work. Students will study topics such as supply and demand, cost of production, fiscal and monetary policy, and global trade. This course is jam-packed with simulations, competitive games, and real-world problem-solving.

AP Economics

Course Number: 4420

Credit: 1

Length: year

Grades: 11 – 12

Advanced Placement Economics is an intensive study of college-level Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. The course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to take Advanced Placement exams for Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. **The course requires students to sit for both the Microeconomics and Macroeconomics AP exams in May.** The course covers the topics of personal finance, consumer choice, supply and demand, competition, regulation, labor, income, economic indicators, financial markets, economic growth, and international trade.

Financial Literacy

Course Number: 4500

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grade: 11 - 12

Financial Literacy is defined as the ability to read, analyze, manage and communicate about personal financial conditions that affect one's material well-being. It includes the ability to discern financial choices, discuss money and financial issues without (or despite) discomfort, plan for the future, and respond completely to life events that affect everyday financial decisions, including events in the general economy. Students in this course will develop the ability to make informed and reasoned financial decisions; become prepared for their role as decision-makers as consumers; and act responsibly as consumers and investors and best utilize their limited resources. *Financial Literacy is a required course for graduation beginning with the class of 2026, but cannot be used as a Social Studies elective.*

Your Life

Course Number: 4550

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grade: 12

Each week of this semester course will be spent studying one year of the students' lives. The teacher will lead the students through an in-depth examination of the popular culture, politics, and events that have occurred over the past eighteen years. Students will use movies, music, television, and documents to develop an understanding of the time in which they have lived.

Psychology

Course Number: 4600

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grades: 11 - 12

This course emphasizes the practical application of psychological principles to the student's daily life and gives a comprehensive coverage of psychological topics and theories in the following areas: learning and cognitive processes, workings of the mind and body, the life span, personality and individuality, adjustment and breakdown, and human relations.

AP Psychology

Course Number: 4620

Credit: 1

Length: year

Grades: 12

The Advanced Placement Psychology class is a year long intensive survey of College Psychology. The course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within Psychology. **Students taking this class will be prepared for the College Board AP Psychology Exam in May.**

Contemporary Issues

Course Number: 4700

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grades: 12

This course is designed to be a participatory, discussion-driven introduction to current world issues as well as the techniques and strategies of debate and expression. Focal areas will include oppression, equality, morality and justice as seen through current topical issues. The new format of the class will feature new literacies and social media platforms. Students will be expected to actively participate in discussions and will be expected to be able to analyze contemporary society, determine cause-and-effect, form and justify opinions and interpret different perspectives. Students will learn to discriminate between various sources of information, and will practice being active participants in modern forms of social media.

Women's Studies

Course Number: 4730

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grades: 11 - 12

The main focus of this course will be women and their societal advancement through American History. Discussion of the status of women in a more global perspective will occur. Women's Studies examine the experiences and contributions of diverse groups of women in American society. This course will provide knowledge about the social role of women and their involvement in areas such as health, history, and political activism. The course will also provide knowledge about gender stereotypes and how this affects the learning process.

History Through the Arts

Course Number: 4750

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grades: 10 - 12

History Through the Arts offers students a unique way to view American history through the lens of Hollywood, the eyes of artists, and the rhythms of the American songbook. Through art analysis, students will gain a new insight into the historical events that occurred from the American Revolution through recent US history as seen by the works that have defined and represented culture across generations.

Sociology

Course Number: 4800

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grades: 11 - 12

This course emphasizes the practical application of sociology and the study of the development, structure, and function of human society. The course will focus on institutions and policies that affect students' daily lives and on current events and news that shape human interactions today. The class will consider local issues such as romantic love, racial and gender identity, family conflict, deviant behavior, aging, and religious faith. At the societal level the course will consider matters like crime and law, poverty and wealth, prejudice and discrimination, schools and education, and social movements. At the global level the course will look at such phenomena as population growth, migration, war and peace.

Sports History

Course Number: 4810

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grades: 10 – 12

Sports History is a semester elective for all students in the eleventh or twelfth grade who want to learn about the way sports have both reflected and shaped our culture. The course will include research on changes to American culture and sport and the effects of sports on the culture. The course will review some of the most memorable moments in sports and many behind-the-scenes decisions that have changed the way we relate to one another and to the stars we admire. Significant discussion of the economics of sports will be included in the course.

War Theory

Course Number: 4820

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grades: 10 - 12

War is a semester elective for all students in the eleventh or twelfth grade who want to learn about the way war has affected the lives of people. The course will include research on changes to culture, government, economics, geography, technology, and medicine. The course will review some of the most memorable battles in war, the people who lead, and behind-the-scenes decisions that have changed the way we relate to one another and fight wars.

African American Studies Survey

Course Number: 4900

Credit: .5

Length: semester

Grade: 10-12

This survey course examines Black Experience across gender, class, culture, time, and geographical space from pre-colonial Africa to prohibition of slavery in the US. Students will engage in the serious study, analysis, and synthesis of information regarding Black Experience and identify major forces, factors, and influences that continue to shape it. This course includes events, ideas and persons in America before, during, and after the Civil War through present African American contributions to society. Students will examine the struggles for freedom, Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras, civil rights, and celebrate Black arts, politics, culture, and society.

AP African American Studies

Course Number: 4920

Credit: 1.0

Length: year

Grade: 10-12

Ap African American Studies is an interdisciplinary course that examines the diversity of African American experiences through direct encounters with authentic and varied sources. Students explore key topics that extend from early African Kingdoms to the ongoing challenges and achievements of the contemporary moment. Given the interdisciplinary character of African American studies, students in the course will develop skills across multiple fields, with emphasis on developing historical, literacy, and visual, and data analysis skills. This course foregrounds a study of the diversity of Black communities in the US and the broader context of Africa and the African diaspora. **Students will be prepared to take the College Board Examination in May and will engage in a self-directed research project that meets the College Board requirements.**