

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy  
Lauralton Hall**

**SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
Course Descriptions 2008-2009**

*The Social Studies Department requires that each student take 3 credits on the high school level. Required courses include World History, Modern World History or AP European History, U.S. Government and U.S. History.*

*Department standards: to move from CP1 to Honors students must have a 93 average. To remain in Honors levels students must maintain at least a 78 average.*

**(211) World History Honors**

**Year            1 Credit**

This survey course traces civilization in traditional Western societies as well as in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century AD to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Skill development in note-taking, essay writing, outlining, and mapping will be emphasized. Students will receive detailed instruction in research methods and will be required to complete a documented thesis-driven research paper. Supplemental book reports and primary source readings will provide opportunity for further analysis.

**(212) World History (CP1)**

**Year            1 Credit**

This survey course traces civilization in traditional Western societies as well as in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century AD to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Skill development in note-taking, essay writing, outlining, and mapping will be emphasized. Students will receive detailed instruction in research methods and will be required to complete a documented research paper. Special attention will be paid to the development of computer research skills.

**(221) European History Advanced Placement**

**Year            1 Credit**

*(Prerequisite: Final grade of 90 in a preceding honors level social studies course.) Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.*

Advanced Placement European History is a survey course open to high-achieving, motivated 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who have completed an honors level history course. European History examines major trends and events from the Age of Discovery to the fall of communism. Extensive use will be made of primary source documents and college level secondary materials, and emphasis will be placed on analysis of historical evidence and the development of research and writing skills in history. Students will be required to take the advanced placement examination at the conclusion of the course.

**(241) Modern World History Honors**

**Semester       .5 Credit**

*(Prerequisite: History 211)*

This course is a survey of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century forces of modernization on traditional Western and non-Western societies. Topics include the impact of the Industrial Revolution; Western imperialism in Asia, Africa and the Middle East; the causes and consequences of the Great War and Russian and Chinese Revolutions; and the origins and consequences of the rise of fascism. Essay writing, note-taking, debating and geography skills will be emphasized, and multiple book reports and historical source readings will be required.

**(242) Modern World History (CP1)**

**Semester       .5 Credit**

*(Prerequisite: History 211 or 212)*

This course is a survey of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century forces of modernization on traditional Western and non-Western societies. Topics include the impact of the Industrial Revolution; Western imperialism in Asia, Africa and the Middle East; the causes and the consequences of the Great War and Russian and Chinese Revolutions; and the origins and consequences of the rise of fascism. Essay writing, note-taking, and geography skills will be emphasized, and outside book reports will be required. Special attention will be paid to the development of Internet information gathering skills.

**(2221) United States Government Honors** Semester .5 Credit

*(Prerequisite: History 211)*

This course will include the study of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the United States government and an examination of the Constitution with special emphasis on the development of the Bill of Rights and its application in recent years. Students will continue to refine research gathering, outlining, and note-taking skills and will produce a thesis-driven, documented multiple source paper.

**(2222) United States Government (CP1)** Semester .5 Credit

*(Prerequisite: History 211 or 212)*

This course includes the study of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government and examines the constitutional history of the United States with special emphasis on the application of the Bill of Rights in recent years. Students will continue to refine research gathering, outlining, and note-taking skills and will be required to produce a documented, multiple source position paper.

**(2301) United States History Advanced Placement** Year 1 Credit

*(Prerequisite: a final grade of at least 80 in AP European History or at least 90 in Honors U. S. Government.) Open to juniors and seniors.*

Advanced Placement United States History is a *one year course* beginning with the Columbian explorations and concluding with the post Cold War 90's. Designed to challenge disciplined students who demonstrate talent and interest in history, the course requirements will include the writing of expository essays, book reports and a comprehensive research project. Practice will be provided in taking the objective test, free-choice essay, and documents-based essay sections of the AP examination that will be administered in May. Sound writing skills are highly recommended. Students who take this course must take the AP examination.

**(231) United States History Honors** Year 1 Credit

*(Prerequisite: History 2211 or 2221.) Open to juniors and seniors.*

This course presents an economic, social, and political survey of the history of the United States beginning in the Jeffersonian period and concluding with the end of the Cold War. The development of essay writing, primary source analysis, and computer research skills will be emphasized. Multiple book reports, supplementary historical readings and an extended documented research paper with a thesis statement will be assigned.

**(232) United States History (CP1)** Year 1 Credit

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This course is a survey of selected topics in the history of the United States beginning in the Jeffersonian period and concluding with the end of the Cold War. The development of essay writing and computer research skills will be emphasized. Book reports and a documented research paper with a thesis statement will be required.

**(2511) Microeconomics Advanced Placement** Semester .5 Credit

*(Prerequisites: Open to juniors (with permission) and seniors with a final grade of 80 in preceding AP level social studies course or a 90 in preceding honors level socials studies course and Algebra 2.*

This course is a one-semester elective course which is designed to approximate an introductory college level course in microeconomics. The course emphasis will be on the development of research, presentation and writing skills in economics, and students will be required to take the advanced placement examination at the conclusion of the course.

**(251) Microeconomics Honors** Semester .5 Credit

*(Prerequisite: Final grade of 88 in preceding honors level social studies course and Algebra II; Algebra II may be taken concurrently.) Open to juniors (with permission, depending on availability) and seniors.*

These students will join the AP Microeconomics class and follow the curriculum described above, but will not take the AP test.

**(252) Introduction to Economics (CP1)**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This elective course will include topics in macroeconomics and microeconomics. Book report, essay writing and computer-generated researching skills will be emphasized in addition to student participation in a stock market simulation.

**( 262) Business Law (CP1)**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

Business Law is for anyone exploring a career in business, law, contracts, employment/consumer protection, and/or insurance. To gain awareness in these practical areas, current pertinent examples and simulations are used to address contracts, business operations/formation, buying and selling procedures, consumer rights, employment laws, warranties and guarantees, and a concentration on many civil law issues. Students will be made aware of their legal rights as an employer/employee/contractor/agent, consumer, and as a member of society. Real contracts, leasing/renting agreements, labor negotiations, large item purchases are provided. This is a highly recommended course for the junior or senior interested in pursuing a career in business, law, sales, labor, or becoming an aware and informed consumer.

**(272) Current Issues (CP1)**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Open to seniors.*

The goal of this seminar is to have open discussions of political and social issues and raise awareness of current world events. Students will be required to research, report and write often. They will learn how to be critical consumers of media and will focus on research-based news writing and presenting a well-informed and balanced view of an issue. Discussions will be supplemented by readings, films and public speakers. Classroom discussion, presentation skills and critical thinking skills will be stressed.

**(281) Global Studies Honors**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This elective will focus on the history and culture of selected areas of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East emphasizing connections to current world issues and events. Computer-generated research and presentation skills, essay writing, and critical thinking skills will be stressed.

**(282) Global Studies (CP1)**

**Semester .5 Credit**

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This elective will focus on the history and culture of selected areas of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East emphasizing connections to current world issues and events. Essay writing and mapping skills will be stressed as well as debating skills and computer-generated researching skills.