

Social Studies

World History
World History - Team: English/History
Modern World History
World Geography
United States History
AP United States History
United States History - Team: American Studies
IGSS US History
Political Science
Topics in International Relations:
 9/11 and the Modern Middle East
Popular Culture
Psychology
Topics of Psychology and Sociology
Sociology in Action

Philosophy
Economics
Law and Justice
Modern America
Current Issues
AP Economics
AP European History
AP Psychology
AP Political Science
History of Art
IGSS Global Concerns
Independent Study Social Studies Seminar
Chicago Summer Seminar
Sports in American History

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

To graduate from New Trier, a student must complete two years of social studies classes. The required courses are World History and US History. World History is the first course in the sequence because it is the prerequisite course for all social studies registrations. Many colleges require a minimum of three years of social studies for admission. The following is a listing of all courses offered by the department.

4-Year Sequence in Social Studies					
Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior		
All Courses in World History	World History	All Courses in US History	US History		
	Modern World History	World History	Modern World History		
	World Geography	Modern World History	World Geography		
	Summer School Only: Chicago Summer Seminar Sports in American History	World Geography	Philosophy	Philosophy	
		Philosophy	Philosophy	Popular Culture	
		Popular Culture	Popular Culture	Economics	
		Economics	Economics	Psychology	
		Psychology	Psychology	Law and Justice	
		Political Science/ Topics in International Relations	Political Science/ Topics in International Relations	Modern America	
		Topics in Psychology and Sociology	Topics in Psychology and Sociology	Political Science/ Topics in International Relations	
		IGSS US History	IGSS US History	Topics in Psychology and Sociology	
		History of Art	History of Art	Current Issues	Current Issues
			History of Art	Sociology in Action	Sociology in Action
	History of Art		AP Economics	AP Economics	
	History of Art		AP European History	AP European History	
History of Art	AP Political Science		AP Political Science		
		AP Psychology	AP Psychology		
		IGSS Global Concerns	IGSS Global Concerns		
		History of Art	History of Art		
		Independent Study	Independent Study		

PHILOSOPHY

The social sciences are in search of patterns that reflect human experience. Laws, languages, institutions, arts, industries, political experiments, economic theories, religious quests, and military ambitions - all project the image of that experience. The social studies offerings provide insights about what has been, what is, and what might be, and develop in students a curiosity about and sensitivity to the environment in which they live. All the courses in the Social Studies Department have been developed to raise questions. Furthermore, the courses challenge students to assess and interpret and provide a framework for recognizing and accepting responsibility as individuals and as citizens.

The Social Studies Department contributes to the total New Trier experience by encouraging students to acquire the following:

- The ability to grasp a question, the capacity to gather relevant data, to analyze that data, and then to marshal pertinent arguments and reach sound conclusions;
- The ability to communicate, both in oral and written expression, with clarity and conviction;
- A quality of open-mindedness reflected in respect for other points of view, in tolerance for ambiguity, in passion for truth, and in respect for facts;
- The ability to be sensitive to religious and ethical differences; and
- The ability to make personal choices that are characterized by courage, dedication, and moral decisiveness.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

World History is the prerequisite course for all other social studies registrations. Students must also complete a year of United States History. Most students take at least three years of social studies while at New Trier. All courses in the department receive major credit.

HOMEWORK

The skills that students develop in the Social Studies can only be developed through careful, reflective study and practice. The skills of reading, writing, and problem-solving are cultivated through class work and reinforced through homework assignments. Through homework, students review class work, practice skills, prepare for class, and check for understanding. Homework is routinely assigned and can take many different forms. Reading and writing assignments are typical, but some assignments will involve completion of multi-media projects. This work is accomplished under the direction of the classroom teacher and is appropriate to the expectations for the year and course level.

Social Studies Courses

World History levels 2-E, 2, 3, 4

OPEN TO FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES

PREREQUISITE: NONE

In this course, students will gain an appreciation for various approaches to historical analysis including, social, political, economic, and intellectual history. Organized around thematic units, the course asks students to analyze how history and culture inform our understanding of the world today and how global interdependence, far from being a new phenomenon, has unfolded over the course of thousands of years. Thematic units may include: The Nature of Empire, The Role of Global Cities, and Forms of Cultural and Economic Exchange. The course emphasizes such skill areas as expository writing, oral communication, evaluation of primary sources, map analysis, research techniques, and critical thinking dispositions. This course, which may be taken freshman or sophomore year, is a prerequisite for all future social studies registrations. ESL option available. World History is not offered during summer school.

World History-Team: English/History levels 9 & 4

OPEN TO FRESHMEN

PREREQUISITE: NONE

The English and World History Team course offers freshmen an opportunity to appreciate the depth and diversity of several world cultures from an interdisciplinary perspective. This team-taught double period course examines the history, literature, and culture of China, the Middle East, Greece, Rome Early Europe, and Africa, while exploring the essential questions of the human condition.

The course emphasizes reading, writing, and critical thinking through the textual analysis of literature and primary historical documents, modern research techniques, and oral presentation.

The ability to think independently and to synthesize information is essential to success in this course, as students will often work in a large group setting, participate in smaller class discussions, and pursue independent research contributing to individual and group presentations.

Modern World History levels 2, 3, & 4

OPEN TO SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

This course presents those elements of modern world history that are most relevant to today's events and issues. The course is structured chronologically, beginning with a review of the Renaissance and culminating in an exploration of pertinent contemporary issues. Modern World History seeks to understand the development of a Western model of civilization and examine the dynamic interaction between that model and its contact with other societies, in particular, Latin America, Japan, and India. Critical analysis and writing skills are emphasized across levels. Students will address such questions as "What are the forces that cause historical change and those that create stability?" "What is meant by 'progress'?" and "What has been the impact of cooperation and competition in an increasingly global society?"

World Geography levels 2-E, 9, & 4

OPEN TO SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

Where are things? Why are they there? So what? These questions capture the spatial perspective that is characteristic of geographic study. This course presents the basic concepts in world geography and helps students strengthen reading, writing, and research skills. Geographic analysis of current events is a focus of this course. Major topics include culture, demographics, economic development, agriculture, urbanization, and political geography. Extensive use is made of case studies to familiarize students with the realities of geographic problem-solving. Students will also have the opportunity to do geographic fieldwork.

United States History levels 2-E, 2, & 3

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

This is a survey course that traces the key historic and social developments of the American experience from its pre-colonial origins to the present. Students acquire an understanding of American culture by studying the political and economic systems, the development of value systems, and interactions among the many groups that live in the United States. The course emphasizes such skill areas as map analysis, evaluation of primary sources, library research techniques, expository writing, and multi-media presentations. This course includes the study of the federal and state constitutions and fulfills the graduation requirement for United States history. ESL option available.

AP United States History level 4

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS WITH DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

Advanced Placement United States History is a college-level survey course that follows the same basic curriculum as all United States History courses in the department. However, this course also prepares students for the Advanced Placement Examination given by the College Board. It is open to juniors and seniors with departmental approval. Please note, the 4-level United States History course offered in summer school is not entitled "Advanced Placement" because it does not prepare students for the AP exam. This course includes the study of the federal and state constitutions and fulfills the graduation requirement for United States history.

United States History-Team: American Studies levels 9 & 4

OPEN TO JUNIORS
PREREQUISITE: ENGLISH 2, WORLD HISTORY
(1 CREDIT ENGLISH; 1 CREDIT SOCIAL STUDIES)

American Studies encourages students to appreciate the richness and diversity of the United States by exploring its culture from an interdisciplinary perspective. Through an inquiry-based study of American narratives using artifacts (novels, films, poems, primary source documents, short stories, and others), American Studies integrates the English and Social Studies disciplines. Key questions about the American experience help unify the course by erasing disciplinary distinctions between social studies and English, and in attempting to answer these key questions, students – and teachers – pursue a larger understanding of what it means to be an American. Learning activities include reading, research, composition, reflection, and oral presentation, in both individual and collaborative modes.

American Studies is a team-taught, double-period course. Two sections meet together daily in a large-group setting for 85 minutes. Students should expect to complete daily homework equivalent to two major courses, and as teachers seek to create an integrated experience for students, many assessments will be common between the two disciplines. This course fulfills the New Trier graduation requirements in both junior English and U.S. History. As in all junior English courses, American Studies students are required to complete a junior theme experience, an independent research paper focusing on the synthesis of literature and history. This course includes the study of the federal and state constitutions and fulfills the graduation requirement for United States history.

IGSS US History: The United States and Its Place in the World levels 9 & 4

OPEN TO JUNIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

Students in IGSS (Integrated Global Studies School) United States History will develop the skills and knowledge required of the historian and examine the ways in which the United States connects and has connected to the world. Students will examine essential events and trends in United States History, including required units on the federal and state constitutions, and will integrate their historical studies with their work in English and Science. When appropriate, materials and coursework in IGSS United States History will also be coordinated with the work of other IGSS classes, with special emphasis on the IGSS Essential Questions and annual theme. IGSS United States History will emphasize student inquiry, a variety of traditional and non-traditional assessment and evaluation techniques, and experiential learning opportunities. IGSS United States History includes the study of the federal and state constitutions and fulfills the graduation requirements for United States history.

Political Science level 9

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY AND U.S. HISTORY
OFFERED FIRST SEMESTER ONLY, LINKED WITH TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

This course is designed to study American government and politics including the fundamental principles of government, the role of the President and Congress, American political culture, public opinion, political participation, elections and campaigns, interest groups, the media, and the policy-making process. This course joins the theoretical with televised current events programs, political cartoons, Supreme Court cases, debates, simulations, letter writing, and political campaign work when applicable. *Students who plan to take Advanced Placement Political Science should not enroll in this one-semester course.*

Topics in International Relations: 9/11 and the Modern Middle East level 9

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS
OFFERED SECOND SEMESTER ONLY, LINKED WITH POLITICAL SCIENCE
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

How can we come to understand our post-9/11 world? After a brief historical overview and an introduction to the theoretical foundations of international relations, the class will focus on modern Middle East politics since 1979 in an attempt to address the root causes of the attacks of 9/11. In addition, we will examine several topics: the connection between religion and politics, the politics of oil, current responses to terrorism put forward by the U.S. and the international community, and the idea that 9/11 represents a clash of civilizations. The course will also emphasize a study of select Middle East countries such as Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran.

Popular Culture level 9

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

The study of popular culture is based on the premise that the United States is increasingly becoming a culture in which mass media plays a central role. As an academic discipline, Popular Culture examines contemporary art and entertainment (television, radio, film, music, sports, toys and games, advertising and comics) as reflections of cultural myths and as measures of social attitudes and values. Students read critical essays, review television programs and films, and critique popular music and contemporary journals in order to understand the cultural context of these forms and to develop media literacy. This is a year long course.

Psychology level 9

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

This one-semester course is designed to familiarize students with the nature of psychology, its basic structure, and its broad purposes in contemporary life. Topics students will be introduced to may include research methods, human physiology, stress management, learning, memory, human growth and development, and states of consciousness. Particular attention is paid to essential social studies skills in reading, analysis and application of data that relate to the patterns of human behavior. The goal of the course is for students to appreciate the commonality of all human behavior, while accepting the uniqueness of each individual. *Students who plan to take Topics of Psychology and Sociology or Advanced Placement Psychology should not enroll in this one-semester course.*

Topics of Psychology and Sociology level 9

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

This yearlong one-period course examines contemporary American issues from both the psychological, and sociological perspectives. Psychology begins the study from the internal point of view — mental processes as a source of behavior on an individual level. In contrast, sociology starts the investigation from the external — social conditions as the primary cause of human actions. Potential topics to be explored may include (but are not limited to): basic structures of personality and society; social inequalities (gender, race, class); individual development and socialization; attraction, sexual orientation, and family; social psychology and collective behavior. Particular attention is paid to social studies skills of reading, analysis, and application of data that relate to patterns of human and group behavior. *Students who plan to take level-9 Psychology or Advanced Placement Psychology should not enroll in this course.*

Philosophy level 9

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

This introductory course is designed to engage students in the questions that have puzzled humans for centuries, the questions that make up a full and authentic life, the questions that drive us. The first semester is devoted to the study of logic, truth, knowledge, and ethics. In the second semester students will study the philosophical implications of the world's significant religions and value systems. An examination of existentialism will complete the year's study. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on reading and discussing philosophical systems of thought and on presenting rigorous philosophical argumentation in writing. A personal engagement with the material is a focus throughout the year. Students are encouraged to react to and with the philosophies, to examine those "splinters of the mind," and to create meaning for their own lives by developing their own personal philosophy.

Economics level 9

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY

In this one-semester course, students will examine the world in both micro and macro-economic terms. They will analyze economic problems in the past and present and use possible solutions to predict the future. Students will analyze economic case studies, news articles, and periodicals; compare and contrast economists' theories; play the Stock Market Game; and do computer simulations, presentations and projects. This course satisfies the Illinois state requirement for consumer education. *Students who plan to take the Advanced Placement Economics should not enroll in this one-semester course.*

Law and Justice level 9

OPEN TO SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY AND US HISTORY

In this one-semester course, students will be introduced to the history and philosophical foundations of the American legal system. Students will study the constitutional basis of our justice system and examine both civil and criminal law. They will learn how laws reflect the values of society at different periods in time and examine how justice is administered. Students will study important court decisions and make use of case studies as they learn the basic concepts of the justice system. As a result of taking this course, students will develop an appreciation for this complex and vital part of our nation's government

Modern America level 9

OPEN TO SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY AND US HISTORY

This one-semester course examines American history from 1945 to the present. While building on foundations of U.S. History, Modern America looks more closely at American social and cultural issues in a contemporary context. Film, art, and photography will be significant complements to reading. Some major topics include: the cultural Cold War, Suburbia, Civil Rights, Vietnam, Counter-Culture, Energy Crisis, Identity Politics, Conservative Revolution, Globalization, and the War on Terror.

Current Issues level 2

OPEN TO SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: UNITED STATES HISTORY

Current Issues is a college-preparatory course designed to give students the background and skills needed to understand the most pressing events of the day. The course presents dynamic and emerging events by providing historical and geographic context. Current Issues stresses a historical approach but focuses on how historical themes are active in current events. Students will continue to hone their social studies skills to analyze events, to view them critically, and to formulate their own opinions on the events and their responsibility for them. A major goal of the course is to provide students with the requisite skills for success in further academic and intellectual pursuits after New Trier.

Sociology in Action level 2-E

OPEN TO SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY AND US HISTORY

In this yearlong course, students apply sociological concepts and thinking to real-world communities, such as the Chicago suburbs and city neighborhoods. Students first study theories of sociology in order to develop a sociological perspective and gain an understanding of how society works. Through their studies, students address critical questions such as: why do our surrounding communities look the way they do, and how were they constructed? Sociology in Action features guest speakers from and projects with the surrounding community. These participants include, but are not be limited to, civic leaders, educators, and local law enforcement officers. A key part of this course is a service-learning project. This opportunity exposes students to a community outside New Trier Township and facilitates understanding of several of the themes discussed throughout the course, such as gender, race, ethnicity, age, and social class. Students will enhance their research, communication, and social engagement skills as well as solidify their reading, writing, and critical analysis skills.

AP Economics level 4

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS WITH DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL
PREREQUISITE: PRECALCULUS AND COMPLETION OF SOCIAL STUDIES GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

This advanced placement program prepares students to take two AP exams, one in microeconomics and one in macroeconomics. The first semester curriculum includes an emphasis on the basic theories and principles of economics and their relationship to consumer issues and consumer behavior and related topics. The second semester is broader in scope and deals with national, multinational, and global economic questions. Research is an integral component of both semesters. The course satisfies the consumer education requirement.

AP European History level 4

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS WITH DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL
PREREQUISITE: COMPLETION OF SOCIAL STUDIES GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS;
MODERN WORLD HISTORY OR GEOGRAPHY RECOMMENDED

This college-level course studies the history of Europe from the Renaissance to the present. Emphasis is given to intellectual, cultural, social and economic history, as well as to political and diplomatic developments. The course prepares students for the Advanced Placement examination of the College Board.

AP Psychology level 4

OPEN TO SENIORS WITH DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL
PREREQUISITE: COMPLETION OF SOCIAL STUDIES GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In this advanced placement program, students are introduced to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students will develop their analytical skills through use of readings, writing of essays, and independent research. Topics covered will include biological bases of behavior, motivation and emotion, developmental psychology, personality, and abnormal psychology. This course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination of the College Board.

AP Political Science level 4

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS WITH DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL
PREREQUISITE: COMPLETION OF SOCIAL STUDIES GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS;
MODERN WORLD HISTORY OR GEOGRAPHY RECOMMENDED

This course prepares students to take the AP exams in American Government and Comparative Politics. Emphasis is placed on developing a sound understanding of the philosophical and institutional foundations of the American political system. In addition, students examine the structures and processes of other selected governments and political philosophies. Development of analytical and evaluative skill is emphasized as well as the application of theory to contemporary issues and events.

IGSS Senior Social Studies: Global Concerns levels 9 & 4

OPEN TO SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY AND UNITED STATES HISTORY

Students in IGSS (Integrated Global Study School) Senior social studies will develop the skills and knowledge of the various social sciences that are most relevant to an examination of current events and issues. By examining IGSS themes through the lenses of history, geography, economics, and a wide variety of other disciplines, students will develop an understanding of the relationships between people, places, and environments over time. Students will encounter material and viewpoints from diverse time periods and ideologies and will integrate this learning with their work in IGSS English and IGSS Science, applying this broad experience and knowledge to current global trends and problems. The IGSS Senior Social Studies curriculum will emphasize student inquiry, a variety of traditional and non-traditional assessment and evaluation techniques, and experiential learning opportunities.

History of Art levels 9 & 4

OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY
THIS IS A FULL-YEAR COURSE.

See Art Department description.

Independent Study Social Studies Seminar level 9

OPEN TO SENIORS WITH DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL
PREREQUISITE: COMPLETION OF SOCIAL STUDIES GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Under the direction of a teacher and using the resources of the school and community, students develop a research design in selected topics of history and the social sciences. Students meet with the teacher individually or in small groups on a regular basis. Each student who wishes to elect the course must confer with the Social Studies Department Chair and receive approval before registration.

Chicago Summer Seminar levels 9 & 4

OPEN TO SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY
OFFERED ONLY DURING SUMMER SCHOOL

This course will engage students in a three and one-half week study of the Chicago metropolitan area. Students will gain an understanding of Chicago's history and geography through the use of a variety of resources: reading, examination of primary source materials, field trips, and sessions with guest speakers. After developing a solid background in Chicago history, geography, economics, and politics, students will explore the city's contemporary problems and issues, and propose solutions within the context of classroom assignments. This one-semester Summer School course will utilize the city and suburbs as our extended classroom. This is a 3.5 week course. Students will receive one semester of major credit.

Sports in American History levels 9 & 4

OPEN TO SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND SENIORS
PREREQUISITE: WORLD HISTORY
OFFERED ONLY DURING SUMMER SCHOOL

This one semester course is ideal for students who love sports. Students will gain an understanding of the history of American sports and the culture that developed around them, as well as how sports have transformed the United States by acting as catalyst for social change. This course draws particular attention to the way that the culture of sports has influenced and been influenced by issues of gender, race, and ethnicity. Interaction with local sports teams and a study of their histories will be highlighted. Students will use a variety of resources including an examination of primary sources, field trips, and sessions with guest speakers. This is a 3.5 week course. Students will receive one semester of major credit. Open to all students who have completed World History.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Classifications

Each course has a six-digit number. For example, the course number for World History at the 4-level is “800134.” The first three digits, “800,” identify the department. The fourth digit, “1,” indicates the year the course is usually taken. The fifth digit, “3,” identifies the semester(s) the course is offered; “3” indicates a full-year course, “0” a one-semester course. The sixth digit, “4,” indicates the level.

World History	800132
World History	800133
World History	800134
World History-E	801132
World History (ESL)	803139
World History-T: English/History.....	190134
World History-T: English/History.....	190139
Modern World History	810232
Modern World History	810233
Modern World History	810234
World Geography	811234
World Geography	811239
World Geography-E	812232
US History	820332
US History	820333
AP US History	820334
US History ESL	820339
US History-E	821332
US History-T: American Studies	190334
US History-T: American Studies	190339
Poli Sci/Topics.....	825339
Pop Culture	826339
Psychology.....	827309
Topics Psych/Soc	828439
Sociology in Action.....	829432
Philosophy	830339
Economics	833309
Law and Justice.....	834309
Modern America.....	835309
Current Issues	840432
AP Economics	841434
AP European History	842434
AP Psychology.....	843434
AP Poli Sci	844434
IGSS US History	870334
IGSS US History	870339
IGSS Global Concerns	870434
IGSS Global Concerns	870439