## Course Descriptions

### History–Social Science

Courses Meeting History/Social Science Graduation Credit

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- Course offered

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| MHS  | Robert A. Millikan High School |
| PHS  | Polytechnic High School |
| RHSA | Renaissance High School for the Arts |
| Rs   | Will J. Reid High School |
| WHS  | Woodrow Wilson Classical High School |
| McHS | Ernest S. McBride, Sr. High School |
**Courses do not meet NCAA or UC requirements.**

**Black History** 2205

Length of Course: 1 semester  
Grade Level Options: 10-12  
Prerequisite: None

The course presents an overview of the Black experience in the United States from the African background to today. Students become familiar with some of the contributions of Black Americans to a pluralistic American society. The class also studies such topics as the fight against bondage, the role of Blacks in the building of the nation, and the civil rights movement.

This course will meet the “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

**AP Comparative Government and Politics** 2235

Length of Course: 1 semester  
Grade Level Options: 11-12  
Prerequisite: None

This course provides a comparative study of political systems/governments. Students will get a critical perspective on the making of various governments, including political science theory and methodology. Students will develop the knowledge necessary to successfully complete the Advanced Placement Exam.

Students who pass the AP Exam have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation’s colleges and universities.

This course will meet the “a” or “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

**Economics** 2311

Economics Accelerated 2360  
Economics SDAIE 2313  
Economics SDAIE/PLS 2316  
(*Economics SDC 5006*)

Length of Course: 1 semester  
Grade Level Options: 12  
Prerequisite: None

The general objective of a high school economics course is for students to master fundamental economic concepts, appreciate how the main concepts of economics relate to each other and understand the structure of economic systems. Students will use economic concepts in a reasoned, careful manner in dealing with personal, community, national and global economic issues. They will use measurement concepts and methods such as tables, charts, graphs, ratios, percentages and index numbers to understand and interpret relevant data. They should learn to make reasoned decisions on economic issues as citizens, workers, consumers, business owners, managers and members of civic groups.

This course will meet the “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

**Current Affairs** 2209

Length of Course: 1 semester  
Grade Level Options: 9-12  
Prerequisite: None

Making extensive and intensive use of newspapers and news magazines, students employ problem-solving techniques needed to locate information, categorize data, and state and support conclusions. In so doing, they learn to evaluate, analytically what they read and hear.

**Criminal Justice and Law** 2211

Length of Course: 2 semesters  
Grade Level Options: 10-12  
Prerequisite: Foundations of Law or Introduction to Law

This course is required for graduation.

**NCAA Approved**

**Criminal Justice and Law curriculum** provide students with an overview of the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Throughout the course, they will explore the meaning of crime and justice, and the relationship between criminal justice and social justice. Students will learn how and why the criminal justice system functions. Students will explore diverse areas of criminal law, constitutional and civil rights, and how the system functions for adults and juveniles. Students will apply critical thinking and problem solving techniques by researching historical and political causes for legal issues and present on findings to essential questions, work in teams to analyze, reason, negotiate and develop questions for further study. Students will examine how the U.S. legal system compares with legal and political systems, philosophies, and practices of other countries. Students will learn about advocacy and policy by researching how individuals and groups, including young people, can take action to reform our legal system.

This course will meet the “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

**NCAA Approved for 16-17**

**Foundations of Law or**

Prerequisite:

Grade Level Options:

Length of Course:

This course will meet the “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved
In this course, students grapple with concepts of identity, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and class. In particular, students understand the politics of privilege and the historical reasons for structural racism, classism and discrimination. Specifically, students discuss how various demographic identifiers including race, ethnicity, and gender, religion, class and sexuality influence human experiences. Students learn about the historical treatment of people from differing identity groups, as well as the ways that differing racial and ethnic identities originate by studying significant events and people. Students discuss the current issues informing the opportunities for and constraints of people associated with differing communities.

This course will meet the “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

**NCAA Approved for 16-17**

### AP Macroeconomics 2366

- **Length of Course:** 1 semester
- **Grade Level Options:** 11-12
- **Prerequisite:** None

The purpose of an Advanced Placement course in macroeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Such a course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination and also develops students’ familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth and international economics.

Students who pass the AP exam have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation’s colleges and universities.

This course will meet the “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

### AP Microeconomics 2368

- **Length of Course:** 1 semester
- **Grade Level Options:** 11-12
- **Prerequisite:** None

The purpose of an Advanced Placement course in microeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the economic system. It places the primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy.

Students who pass the AP exam have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation’s colleges and universities.

This course will meet the “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

### AP European History 2284

- **Length of Course:** 2 semesters
- **Grade Level Options:** 10-12
- **Prerequisite:** None

Advanced Placement European History provides a study of European history since 1450 and introduces students to cultural, economic, political and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. Without this knowledge we would lack the context for understanding the development of contemporary institutions, the role of continuity and change in present-day society and politics and the evolution of current forms of artistic expressions and intellectual discourse. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of Advanced Placement European History are to develop (a) an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, (b) an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and (c) an ability to express historical understanding in writing.

This course may fulfill the graduation requirement for Modern World History.

Students who pass the AP exam have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation’s colleges and universities.

This course will meet the “a” or “g” requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

### Foundations in Law 2208

**Academic Career Course**

- **Length of Course:** 2 semester
- **Grade Level Options:** 10-12
- **Prerequisite:** Recommended: C or better in prior English and history course

In this yearlong foundational course, students explore the concepts of law, justice, and power. This course engages students by asking them to grapple with questions about human nature, justice and fairness, crime and punishment, and the citizen’s role in a democratic society. As students delve into these concepts, they compare and contrast the philosophical underpinnings of the U.S. government with other governments around the world, think critically about the principles and intent behind the founding documents of the United States, and consider how individual and collective action can result in meaningful change at the local, national, and global levels. Above all, students experience law and justice as dynamic forces, shaped by people and events over time.

At the center of each unit in the course is a project designed to tap into the diverse viewpoints and experiences that students bring to the classroom. Each project requires students to collaborate, think critically, and communicate clearly—all in authentic contexts. Student activities, projects, and assessments throughout the year also highlight the legal and public protective services career pathways and the skills that each pathway requires. Students are introduced to careers in legal services, law enforcement, advocacy, policy, and government, and explore how professionals in these fields interact with one another and with the public.
Geography

Length of Course: 1 semester
Grade Level Options: 9-12
Prerequisite: None

Geography is a vast subject, encompassing the world. This course will provide students with a framework to study the Earth and suggest questions to help them explore our planet. Students will study the five themes of Geography as well as the National Geography Standards. The themes serve as content organizers and the standards identify the specific subject matter, skills, and perspective the students should master.

This course will meet the "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

Global Economics

Length of Course: 1 semester
Grade Level Options: 10 (CIC only)
Prerequisite: None

This course is devoted to the study of the operations and institutions of global economics systems with an emphasis on the basic principles of consumption, exchange of goods and services, and distribution of income. Students will also learn the concepts that enable consumers to understand the broad picture of global economic activity and its impact on the domestic market place.

This course meets the graduation requirement for Economics.

This course will meet the "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

History of Europe IB HL2

Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Options: 12
Prerequisite: AP US History

The history of Europe is a requirement of the International Baccalaureate Program. This second year of a two-year course requires an in-depth study of modern world history. The History of Europe is built around the existing AP United States History course of the 11th grade and the senior year provides a concentrated view of the 19th and 20th century European History. Six topics are investigated during this course: Topic #1, The Causes, Practices and Effects of War; Topic #2, Nationalist and Independent Movements, De-Colonization and Challenges Facing New States; Topic #3, The Rise and Rule of Single-Party States; Topic #4, Peace and Cooperation: International Organizations and Multi-Party States; Topic #5, The Cold War, Topic #6, The State and its Relationship with Religion and Minorities. Students are recommended to study 2-3 of the topics through selection of case studies drawn from different regions. Students will be expected to present historical explanations from an international perspective and teaching will be provided by a holistic approach with political, social, economical, cultural and gender issues integrated into the study of each topic when appropriate. This is further reinforced with two (2) research papers: first, an extended essay of 4,000 words—which is to be reviewed and graded internationally; second an internal essay of 2,000 words – that will be graded on-site and samples are sent to international reviewers. Both of these papers are done by the first semester of the senior year of study.

This course will meet the "a" or "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

AP Human Geography

Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Options: 11-12
Prerequisite: None

Advanced Placement Human Geography is a year-long course designed to meet or exceed the experience of an introductory one-semester college human geography course. The purpose of the course is to utilize geographic processes to systematically study and understand spatial patterns that are evident in the world in which we live.

Students who pass the AP exam have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities.

This course will meet the “a” or “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

International Business and Economics

Length of Course: 1 semester
Grade Level Options: 10-12
Prerequisite: None

The International Business and Economics course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of international business and global trade. Students will develop knowledge in the cultural, social, political, legal and economic factors and conditions which interact to create the international business environment. Concepts covered include economic systems, resources, industries, technology, balance of payments and foreign exchange. In addition, the key concepts of cultural and social factors such as: language, education, religion, values and customs, and social relationships will be examined as related to conducting business in a global economy. Furthermore, studies will include foreign government structures, political stability and government policies toward business.

This course will meet the “a” or “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

International Relations

Length of Course: 1 semester
Grade Level Options: 10-12
Prerequisite: None

Students will focus on the workings of the government especially as it relates to international, political and economic rela-
tions under the U.S. constitution. Major issues of the day will be studied as to how they affect the interactions of citizens, their governments and nations of the world. A comparison of world government will also be surveyed.

This course will meet the "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

Introduction to Law____________________2228
Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Options: 9-12
Prerequisite: None

Introduction to Law introduces students to the U.S. legal system, including constitutional, criminal, and civil law. Students learn about legal concepts, historical foundations, and principles and procedures of law, experiencing law and justice as dynamic forces, shaped by people and events over time. Students understand the role of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, learning why and how laws are created, enforced, interpreted, and changed. They look at the relationship between law, public policy, and advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels of government. They learn the foundations of criminal law with a focus on crimes against the person and the foundations of civil law with a focus on specific product liability and negligence. Finally, students explore civil and human rights issues and the role of advocacy and civics in reforming our legal system.

This course will meet the "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

**NCAA Approved in 16-17

Introduction to Psychology___________2227
Length of Course: 1 semester
Grade Level Options: 10-12
Prerequisite: None

Students study such topics as influences of heredity and environment on personality and behavior, steps in problem solving, principles of learning, patterns of human behavior, and bases of mental health. They examine case studies to help relate psychology to live situations. Students become familiar with basic concepts of psychology through reading, lectures, motion pictures, guest speakers, and small and large group discussions.

This course will meet the "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

Introduction to Sociology___________2231
Length of Course: 1 semester
Grade Level Options: 10-12
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to introduce students to the kinds of questions sociologists ask about society and to some contrasting approaches to reaching conclusions. The course, which deals with selected social concepts significant to stu-

dents, is designed to involve them in exploring these concepts. Concepts include socialization, institutions, social stratification, changes in social order.

This course will meet the "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

Journey for Justice (UCCI)___________2214
Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Options: 10-12
Prerequisite: Foundations of Law (required); Black and Latino Studies (recommended); Criminal Justice in the 21st Century (recommended)

In this course, students will examine the role of Hispanics in the United States and the history of Hispanics in the Americas. The course begins with the study of pre-Colombian culture, followed by the Conquest and colonialism. The 19th century focuses on the evolving and sometimes volatile relationship between the U.S. and Mexico. The 20th century focuses on Hispanics and their political, social and economic role in the U.S. Literature, poetry, art, music and film will also be used. Students will be involved in a variety of activities throughout the course, such as debates, conducting an oral history and a research project.

This course will meet the "a" or "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

Latino Studies______________________2217
Length of Course: 1 semester
Grade Level Options: 10-12
Prerequisite: None

In this course, students will examine the role of Hispanics in the United States and the history of Hispanics in the Americas. The course begins with the study of pre-Colombian culture, followed by the Conquest and colonialism. The 19th century focuses on the evolving and sometimes volatile relationship between the U.S. and Mexico. The 20th century focuses on Hispanics and their political, social and economic role in the U.S. Literature, poetry, art, music and film will also be used. Students will be involved in a variety of activities throughout the course, such as debates, conducting an oral history and a research project.

This course will meet the "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

Modern World History_____________2271
Modern World History Accelerated____2272
Modern World History SDAIE______2277
Modern World History SDAIE/PLS____2278
("Modern World History ILP (Beach HS only) 2292)
(***Modern World History SDC________5511)

Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Options: 10
Prerequisite: None

History-Social Science 85 2015-16
This history/social science course examines the major turning points of the modern world from approximately 1750 to the present. Components of this class include: Historical Linkage, the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the Rise of Imperialism and Colonialism, World War I, Totalitarianism, World War II and Nationalism. Students should develop an understanding of the historic as well as the contemporary geographic, social, political and economic consequences of the various areas and problems they review.

This course is required for graduation.

This course will meet the "a" or "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

Modern World History/ International Negotiations ____________ 2275

Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Options: 10
Prerequisite: None

This history/social science course examines the major turning points of the modern world from approximately 1750 to the present. Components of this class include: Historical Linkage, the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the Rise of Imperialism and Colonialism, World War I, Totalitarianism, World War II and Nationalism. Students should develop an understanding of the historic as well as the contemporary geographic, social, political and economic consequences of the various areas and problems they review. The International Negotiations portion of the course is designed to have students study a foreign country in the areas of economics, government, environment, human rights, health, defense and women's issues. They use "real" world problems to implement their learning using computers that are networked with other schools in California, Oregon and Arizona.

This course will fulfill the Modern World History graduation requirement.

This course will meet the "a" or "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

Philosophy IB SL ____________ 2221

Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Options: 11-12
Prerequisite: None

Philosophy investigates the nature of philosophical thought. While no canonical definition can be advanced, the subject as a distinctive discipline critiques human knowledge and experience; attempts to make explicit the principles on which knowledge is constructed and the values on which human actions are based; recognizes that principles, values, actions and their justification are problematic; has a method consisting chiefly of conceptual analysis and deals with problems through the construction of rational argument that requires the student to engage in dialogue with others.

This course will meet the "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

AP Psychology ____________ 224

Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Options: 11-12
Prerequisite: None

The Advanced Placement Psychology 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 sub-fields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Students who pass the AP exam have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities.

This course will meet the "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

** Social Justice (Intro) ____________ 2131

Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Options: 9-12
Prerequisite: None

In this course, students will explore multiple definitions of social justice and methods used to promote social change. Students evaluate how self and group identities shape individual perception and communities by investigating social identities and the agents of socialization; evaluate power dynamics by analyzing the distribution of wealth and power; investigate how public policy is developed to identify how lawmakers, community organizations, lobbyists, and popular movements shape policy and create a platform to effect social change. Students will learn skills to proactively address issues of social justice, focusing on effective group and inter-group communication and organizing, development and implementation of action plans, linked learning projects, participation in discussion via community building circles, the critique of media, research, analysis of statistics with meaningful reflection.

Theory of Knowledge ____________ 6793

Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Options: 12
Prerequisite: None

Theory of Knowledge IB stimulates critical reflection of the knowledge and experiences of students both inside and outside the classroom. The goal of the program is to help students increase their understanding of what they have already learned and to help them reflect upon it. Students are encouraged to acquire a critical awareness of what they and others know through analyzing concepts and arguments and the bases of value judgments. Theory of Knowledge is a key in the educational philosophy of the International Baccalaureate program and is required for every diploma candidate.

This course will meet the "g" entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.
In this course, students apply knowledge gained in previous years of study to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American Government. In addition, they draw on their studies of World and American history and geography and other societies to compare differences and similarities in world governmental systems today. This course is the culmination of history/social sciences classes to prepare students to solve society's problems, to understand and to participate in the governmental process, and to be a responsible citizen of the United States and the world.

This course is required for graduation.

This course will meet the “a” or “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

**AP United States History** 2236

Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Option: 10-12
Prerequisite: Parent’s permission

The Advanced Placement U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An Advanced Placement U.S. History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

This course may fulfill the United States History graduation requirement.

Students who pass the AP exam have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation’s colleges and universities.

This course will meet the “a” or “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved

**AP World History** 2318

Length of Course: 2 semesters
Grade Level Option: 10-12
Prerequisite: None

The purpose of the Advanced Placement World History course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts, in interaction with different types of human societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. The course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies.

This course may fulfill the Modern World History graduation requirement.

Students who pass the AP exam have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation’s colleges and universities.

This course will meet the “a” or “g” entrance requirement for the University of California and California State University systems.

NCAA Approved