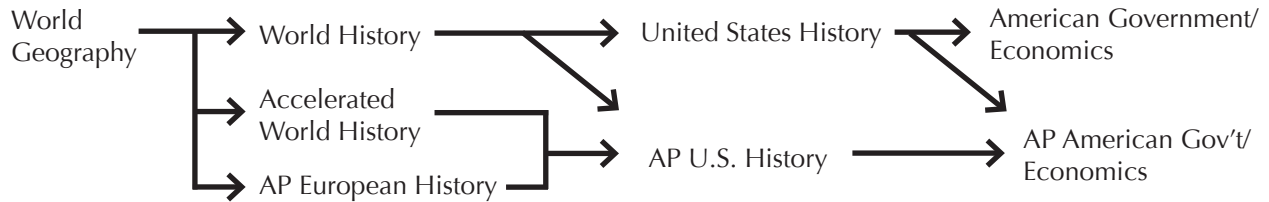


SOCIAL STUDIES

P I O N E E R H I G H S C H O O L

RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCES



PLAN 4: Preparation for Social Science Majors and for Highly Selected Colleges

All of Pioneer's successful applicants to highly selective colleges, such as Stanford and Berkeley, take a rigorous social studies curriculum in high school, regardless of their intended major. The combination of non-fiction reading and analytical writing that students encounter in advanced social studies courses is Pioneer's best preparation for college-level work. Students with a love of history, strong study skills, and a strong work ethic should also consider this plan.

World Geography
AP European History or Accelerated World History
AP U.S. History
AP American Government / Economics



PLAN 3: Preparation for Four-Year College

More than two-thirds of Pioneer's successful applicants to four-year colleges take at least one advanced social studies course in high school, most often during the sophomore and/or junior year.

World Geography
Accelerated World History or World History
AP U.S. History or United States History
American Gov't / Economics
or AP American Government / Economics

PLAN 2: Preparation for the Work Force

In social studies, students practice reading non-fiction and writing expository, analytical essays. These skills are central to nearly every career path. A four-year curriculum of social studies courses is an important part of career preparation and a critical component of citizen education.

World Geography
World History
United States History
American Government / Economics

PLAN 1: San Jose Unified School District Minimal Graduation Requirements

Students not planning to enter college immediately are still required to take three and a half years of social studies, including:

United States History
American Government / Economics
Any 3 additional semesters of social studies

CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Freshman Year: World Geography. All freshmen at Pioneer take World Geography. There are no advanced or accelerated sections. In this survey course of the non-Western world, students study Latin America, Africa, East Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East in roughly equal measures. Major themes include the legacy of colonialism, the development of revolutions, and the rise of ethnic and cultural nationalism.

Sophomore Year: World History. Sophomores have three options for tenth grade history. The majority of students take World history, a survey course of the last 250 years of non-American history. Major themes include the second wave of imperialist expansion and the two world wars. Some sophomores opt to take Accelerated World History, which covers the same content but uses a college-level textbook and goes into greater depth. In addition, students may choose the hardest sophomore history class, AP European History. This class has a greater coverage (1450-the present) of material and focuses on European development and its impact on world affairs.

Sophomore Project. All sophomores, regardless of the course they take, are required to complete a service-learning project. The yearlong project asks a student to do traditional research writing and 30 hours of community service in an effort to better understand a global problem. In the past, some students have studied illiteracy worldwide while tutoring elementary students. Other students have written about the global spread of AIDS while working at a Bay Area hospice center. Pioneer's sophomore project is the cornerstone of the nationally recognized service-learning curriculum.

Junior Year: United States History. Juniors may choose to take U.S. History or AP U.S. History. The former focuses on America in the Twentieth Century, including its rise as a world power, its struggles through the Great Depression and 1960s, and its triumphs in war, diplomacy, and trade. The AP course goes into greater depth and expands its coverage from Columbus's arrival to the present.

Senior Year: American Government and Economics. All seniors take semester-long classes in economics and in the government of the United States. American government is a survey of America's fundamental governing documents, the structure of American government, and American political practices. AP Government is also available. Economics is a survey of fundamental micro- and macroeconomic concepts and practices.

AP Courses. AP Courses: In order to prepare students for the College Board's examination, additional focus is placed on learning more content, analyzing primary and secondary sources, and critical thinking and analysis. Students also pursue a rigorous program of writing instruction and practice to raise their skills to the college level. By passing the College Board's examination, students may earn college credit and/or earn the privilege of skipping introductory levels of history in favor of being able to take upper-division classes.

OTHER COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Psychology. Currently Pioneer's social studies department offers a single elective course: Psychology. Among the most popular at Pioneer, the course covers a wide variety of topics related to human cognition and behavior. (*Open only to juniors or seniors.*)

Mock Trial. The department also sponsors Pioneer's mock trial team. Co-coached by a faculty member and a local attorney, students can earn a semester's worth of elective credit for preparing their cases, practicing courtroom procedure, and competing in the annual Santa Clara County competition.

Service Learning. Ours is a nationally recognized service learning school, and while the Mustang commitment to service extends to other departments, social studies is the leader. This class manages many of Pioneer's annual service events. Students must interview in order to be accepted. For more information, visit www.phsservicelearning.org

DEPARTMENT FACULTY 2011-2012

Mr. Patrick Bernhardt, Stanford
AP U.S. History, Mock Trial

Mr. Mike Burrell (dept chair), San Jose State
Acc World History, AP Euro History, Service Learning

Mr. Rick Conrad, San Jose State
World Geography, Government, Economics

Ms. Sarah Day, Ohio State
World History, AP U.S. History

Mr. Peter Glasser, Stanford
World Geography, U.S. History, AP U.S. History

Mr. Jake Hernandez, CSU Hayward
World Geography, U.S. History

Ms. Anne Kline, Immaculate Heart, USF (MA)
Government, AP American Government, Economics

Mr. Tim Koring, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
World Geography, Psychology, AP Psychology

Ms. Katy Poole, UC Santa Cruz (BA, MA)
World History, AP U.S. History

Ms. Priya Talreja, UC Davis, Claremont (MA)
World History, Government,
AP American Government, Economics

Mr. Daryk Tenorio, UCLA
World Geography, U.S. History