

Diverse Courses Offered by the Social Studies Department

US History 1: (Grade 9) – Students study American history from Pre-Columbus through the Civil War Era (1877).

US History 2: (Grade 10) – Students study American history from the Post-Civil War Industrial Period to Modern Day Issues and current events.

World History (Grade 11) :– World History provides a panoramic view of our world over time. The course is a balance between the histories of Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

The Wausau West Social Studies Department offers a variety of courses, which enable students to examine the world. Social Studies courses provide students with the knowledge, critical thinking skills and experiences that will allow them to grow into effective citizens. In order to graduate, students must earn 3.5 Social Studies credits. The students earn 3 credits from the year-long survey courses of U.S. History 1 (grade 9), U.S. History 2 (grade 10), and World History (grade 11). Students also must complete at least one semester of a social studies elective. Many students choose to take more than one social studies elective as a junior or senior.

FINANCIAL LITERACY REQUIREMENT: All students will need to meet a Financial Literacy Requirement. One way to meet the Financial Literacy Requirement is by earning credit for Economics, a semester-long Social Studies course.

Elective Options in the Social Studies Department

Economics (Grades 10-12) – Economics meets the Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement. Discover economic secrets of decision making by individuals, businesses, and the government. The nationally certified Personal Economics Unit helps students plan for graduation, college, adult life, and retirement.

Government (Grades 10-12) – Understand our society through the principles from which it was founded. Who has the authority to make the big decisions you hear about on the news? What rights do you have? What can you do? Explore the ever-evolving political landscape of the United States by investigating these questions and other points of view.

Psychology (Grades 11-12) – Psychology is a rapidly growing field and a requirement in many post-secondary programs. It is the study of the individual – thoughts, behaviors, and actions...and investigates the age-old question of "why do people do what they do?" Psychology is a one semester course.

Sociology (Grades 11-12) – Learn about the different perspectives of social issues that society has to offer.

AP Macroeconomics (Grades 11-12) – AP Macroeconomics focuses on how the government and the whole economy makes decisions. "Macro" places the emphasis on the large picture view. Students may earn college credit. Macroeconomics is often a required course for business, finance, accounting, and social science college majors.

AP Microeconomics (Grade 12) – AP Microeconomics focuses on how businesses make decisions. "Micro" places the emphasis on individual choice. Students may earn college credit. Microeconomics is often a required course for business, finance, accounting, and social science college majors.

AP Psychology (Grades 11-12) – Psychology is a rapidly growing field and a requirement in many post-secondary programs. It is the study of the individual – thoughts, behaviors, and actions...and investigates the age-old question of "why do people do what they do?" Students study psychology topics in-depth in this year-long college-level course. Students may earn college credit for this year-long course.

AP U.S. Government (Grades 11-12) - AP U.S. Government introduces students to how individuals and political institutions interact to create U.S. government policies. Students may earn college credit for this year-long course.