

VCHS Social Science Department

Studies in geography, history, economics and government provide students with an integrated view of the world, enabling them to synthesize personal Christian convictions relative to the world in which they live.

Each year students have the opportunity to travel abroad to gain a first-hand view of the world. Students also interact with local candidates for political office and participate in their election campaigns. They debate current issues and support the candidate of their choice. Business leaders in association with Junior Achievement visit the classroom and share industry experience with economics students.

The following courses are offered:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↔ Global Studies I ↔ Honors Global Studies I ↔ Global Studies II ↔ AP European History ↔ AP Human Geography ↔ United States History | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↔ AP United States History ↔ American Government (One Semester) ↔ Economics (One Semester) ↔ AP U.S. and Comparative Gov't ↔ AP Micro- and Macroeconomics ↔ History and Music |
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Course Title GLOBAL STUDIES I

<p>Course #: 252</p> <p>Grade Levels: 9</p> <p>Graduation Credit: Cultures/Geography</p> <p>Fees: None</p> <p>UC Approval: Yes, "a" course – History</p>	<p><i>Pre-Requisite: None.</i></p> <p>Reviews ancient and medieval Western and non-Western history through the Renaissance and Reformation, encompassing geography, the development of major world religions and cultural diffusion. Students evaluate historical actions and philosophies through the lens of the Christian worldview.</p> <p>Additional Expectations: This course typically requires 2 hours of homework each week.</p>
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Course Title HONORS GLOBAL STUDIES I

Course #: 254
 Grade Levels: 9
 Graduation Credit: Cultures/Geography
 Fees: None

Pre-Requisite: Grade of "A" in 8th-grade History; Concurrent enrollment in English 9 (H) or instructor approval.

UC Approval: Yes, "a" course – History

Examines literature, theology, history, economics, sociology, philosophy, and the arts in order to gain a comprehensive understanding not only of the political events of world history, but also of the worldviews of the societies involved and the mutual influence societies have on each other. This course offers students an opportunity to do the work of historians while learning how to integrate their faith into academic work. Students are prepared to take Advanced Placement courses offered in the social science department, but more importantly, they are equipped with the tools they need to begin an education of the whole soul, integrating their intellect with their passions and desires in imitation of Christ.

Additional Expectations: This Honors course typically requires 3 hours of homework and reading each week.

Course Title GLOBAL STUDIES II

Course #: 253
 Grade Levels: 10
 Graduation Credit: Cultures/Geography
 Fees: None

Pre-Requisite: None.

UC Approval: Yes, "a" course – History

Focuses on the development of democratic institutions, economic trends and European colonialism. Specific topics include the Industrial Revolution and the economic philosophies of capitalism, socialism, communism, and mercantilism/imperialism. Students evaluate historical actions and philosophies through the lens of the Christian worldview.

Additional Expectations: This course typically requires 2 hours of homework each week.

Course Title AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

Course #: 249
 Grade Levels: 10 (11-12 as elective)
 Graduation Credit: Cultures/Geography
 Fees: \$86 (AP exam fee – subject to change)

UC Approval: Yes, “a” course – History

Pre-Requisite: “B” in Honors Global Studies I or “A” in Global Studies I; Students who do not meet these criteria but achieved at least a C- may still take the class, but they must meet with their counselor and their current teacher to discuss the expectations of the course. Students earning below a C- in the previous course can only enroll with counselor approval.

Familiarizes students with European development from 1450 to the present. This college-level course explores historical events and movements through intellectual and cultural, political and diplomatic, and social and economic perspectives. Students learn to analyze historical documents and express their historical understanding in writing while preparing for the AP examination.

Additional Expectations: This Advanced Placement course typically requires between 4-6 hours of homework and reading each week.

Course Title AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Course #: 246
 Grade Levels: 10 (11-12 as elective)
 Graduation Credit: Cultures/Geography
 Fees: \$86 (AP exam fee – subject to change)

UC Approval: Yes, “a” course – History

Pre-Requisite: “B” in Honors Global Studies I or “A” in Global Studies I; Students who do not meet these criteria but achieved at least a C- may still take the class, but they must meet with their counselor and their current teacher to discuss the expectations of the course. Students earning below a C- in the previous course can only enroll with counselor approval.

Introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the earth’s surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to study human social organization and its environment consequences. Geographic concepts emphasized throughout the course are location, space, scale, pattern, regionalization, and place. Students will study the dynamics of human population growth and movement, patterns of culture, economic use of the earth, political organization of space, and human settlement patterns, especially urbanization. This course also examines the concept of region. Case studies that range in scale from local to global are taken from around the world and from local urban areas.

Additional Expectations: This Advanced Placement course typically requires between 4-6 hours of homework and reading each week.

Course Title UNITED STATES HISTORY

Course #: 220
 Grade Levels: 11
 Graduation Credit: U.S. History
 Fees: None
 UC Approval: Yes, "a" course –
 History

Pre-Requisite: None.

Explores the major events that have shaped United States history along with the role of Christian values in its development. Students learn to recognize cause and effect related to history, identify major historical turning points and develop historical interpretations.

Additional Expectations: This course typically requires 2 hours of homework each week.

THIS CLASS IS OFFERED IN TWO FORMATS: ONLINE AND IN A TRADITIONAL CLASS SETTING.

Course Title AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

Course #: 202
 Grade Levels: 11
 Graduation Credit: U.S. History
 Fees: \$86 (AP exam fee –
 subject to change)
 UC Approval: Yes, "a" course –
 History

Pre-Requisite: "B" in AP European History or AP Human Geography or "A" in Global Studies II; Students who do not meet these criteria but achieved at least a C- may still take the class, but they must meet with their counselor and their current teacher to discuss the expectations of the course. Students earning below a C- in the previous course can only enroll with counselor approval. Students wishing to take the online version of AP US History must have completed AP European History or AP Human Geography with a "B-" or better or have counselor approval.

Provides students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with issues and developments in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by a college course. Students learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. This course develops the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

Additional Expectations: This Advanced Placement course typically requires between 4-6 hours of homework and reading each week.

THIS CLASS IS OFFERED IN TWO FORMATS: ONLINE AND IN A TRADITIONAL CLASS SETTING.

Course Title **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (ONE SEMESTER)**

Course #: 225
 Grade Levels: 12
 Graduation Credit: Government
 Fees: None
 UC Approval: Yes, "a" course –
 History

Pre-Requisite: None.

Encompasses the means available for political participation in the United States government, the levels within federal and local governments and the role of American government in global concerns. Students acquire skills in research, data interpretation and analytical thought. Students will automatically be enrolled in Economics second semester.
Additional Expectations: This course typically requires 2 hours of homework each week.

Course Title **ECONOMICS (ONE SEMESTER)**

Course #: 230
 Grade Levels: 12
 Graduation Credit: Economics
 Fees: None
 UC Approval: Yes, "g" course –
 General Elective

Pre-Requisite: None.

Defines economics as the study of exchange given certain institutional arrangements or as the study of human action – people making choices. This course will teach students about the "economic way of thinking" and the applications of this reasoning to their daily lives. This is *not* a course in business, personal finance or investing. Topics to be discussed include fundamental concepts of economics such as scarcity, opportunity cost and marginal analysis; international trade; the role of prices in allocating goods and services; applications of the supply and demand model to various public policy issues; unintended consequences of government intervention; the importance of property rights; public goods and externalities; market structures and antitrust; environmental economics; Federal Reserve and money.
Additional Expectations: This course typically requires 2 hours of homework each week.

Course Title		AP U.S. AND COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT
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Course #:	204
Grade Levels:	12
Graduation Credit:	Government / Economics
Fees:	\$172 (Two AP exam fees – subject to change)

Pre-Requisite: Interview with the instructor. "B" in AP US History or "A" in US History; Students who do not meet these criteria but achieved at least a C- may still take the class, but they must meet with their counselor and their current teacher to discuss the expectations of the course. Students earning below a C- in the previous course can only enroll with counselor approval.

UC Approval:	Yes, "a" course – History
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Puts college-level focus on government and politics in the global community, introducing general concepts and relationships used to critically interpret events, actions, connections, and policy outcomes. Through the examination of case studies from the U.S., the United Kingdom, Russia, China, Iran, Nigeria and Mexico, students gain a solid understanding of the world's diverse political structures and practices as well as the institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that make up the American political and economic environment. This course will focus on the interrelation among political and economic systems and the impact that interaction has on citizens of various countries. This year-long course will prepare students to take both the AP US Government and AP Comparative Politics exams in May.

Additional Expectations: This Advanced Placement course typically requires between 4-6 hours of homework and reading each week.

Course Title **AP MICRO- AND MACROECONOMICS**

Course #: 240
 Grade Levels: 12
 Graduation Credit: Government /
 Economics
 Fees: \$172 (Two AP exam
 fees – subject to
 change)

Pre-Requisite: "B" in AP US History or "A" in US History; Students who do not meet these criteria but achieved at least a C- may still take the class, but they must meet with their counselor and their current teacher to discuss the expectations of the course. Students earning below a C- in the previous course can only enroll with counselor approval.

UC Approval: Yes, "g" course –
 General Elective

Economics can be defined as *the study of exchange given certain institutional arrangements* or it can be viewed as *the study of human action—people making choices*. This university-level one-year course will be divided into *AP Microeconomics* the first semester and *AP Macroeconomics* the second semester.

Topics to be discussed in *AP Microeconomics* include fundamental concepts of economics such as scarcity and opportunity cost; international trade; the role of prices in allocating goods and services; applications of supply and demand to public policy issues; institutional differences between capitalist and command economies; market structures and antitrust; public choice analysis, public goods theory and externalities; environmental economics. Topics to be discussed in *AP Macroeconomics* include the role of institutions and their impact on economic growth; GDP, inflation, unemployment; basic macroeconomic model of aggregate supply and demand; Classical, Keynesian, New Classical, Monetarist, and New Keynesian models of the economy; overview of money and the Federal Reserve; monetary policy.

Additional Expectations: This Advanced Placement course typically requires between 4-6 hours of homework and reading each week.

Course Title **HISTORY AND MUSIC**

Course #: 255
 Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12
 Graduation Credit: Cultures/Geography
 Fees: None
 UC Approval: Yes, "a" course –
 History

Pre-Requisite: Conservatory enrollment.

Takes a multi-sensory approach to survey Western history through the lens of music. Students begin in ancient Greece and the Roman Empire, travel through the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution, ending with the Technological Revolution. We examine the political, cultural, and spiritual climate of the periods and analyze the effect on musical composition of the time. In addition to critical listening and analysis of music, students will compare the different styles, forms, instrumentation and composers from the various historical periods.

Additional Expectations: This course typically requires 2-3 hours of homework each week.