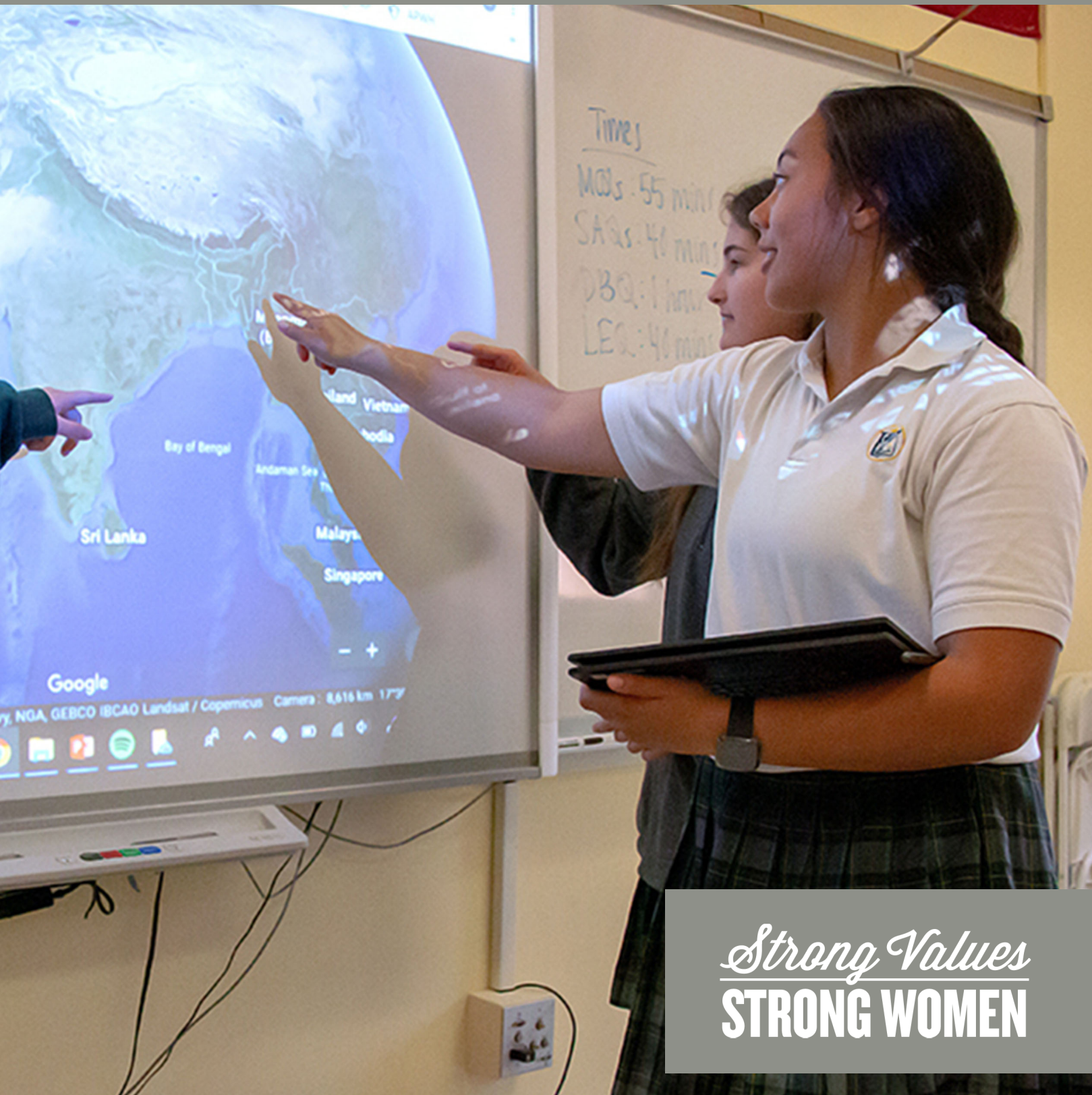




# 2022-23

## Social Studies Department



*Strong Values*  
**STRONG WOMEN**

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## FRESHMEN

### Required Courses

American Government (.5 credit)

## SOPHOMORES

### Required Courses

World History (1 credit) or  
AP World History: Modern (1 credit)

### Elective Courses

Geography and Culture (.5 credit)

## JUNIORS

### Required Courses

American History (1 credit) or  
AP/ACP American History (1 credit)

### Elective Courses

Geography and Culture (.5 credit)  
Psychology (.5 credit)  
Topics in Social Studies (.5 credit)  
AP/ACP US Government and Politics (1 credit)  
ACP Psychology (.5 credit)

## SENIORS

### Required Courses

### Elective Courses

Geography and Culture (.5 credit)  
Modern American History Since 1945 (.5 credit)  
Psychology (.5 credit)  
Topics in Social Studies (.5 credit)  
Honors Modern American History Since 1945 (.5 credit)  
Honors Voices of Human Rights  
(.5 credit EN and .5 credit SS)  
AP/ACP US Government and Politics (1 credit)  
ACP Psychology (.5 credit)  
ACP Sociology (.5 credit)

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of the Social Studies Department is to develop an atmosphere of inquiry and analysis in which the student can acquire an awareness of and an appreciation for ongoing human experiences.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Students will develop necessary skills of comprehension, critical analysis, and expression that will enable the student to explore relevant social, political, and economic issues.
2. Students will be provided a broad historical background of human progress: social, political, and economic, which will lend perspective to contemporary issues.
3. Students will develop a value system that includes a reverence for life, a sense of thoughtful responsibility, and personal accountability.

## REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to earn three credits in social studies with 2.5 credits predetermined in the freshman, sophomore and junior years. The remaining .5 credit and additional credits are elective with some requiring departmental approval.

## HONORS COURSE ELIGIBILITY POLICY

In order to be considered for placement in a social studies honors class, a student must receive *departmental* approval. Approval is based on the degree to which the essential skills for success at the honors level were attained as well as student performance in her previous Social Studies courses and her English courses. To be eligible for ACP courses, students must meet the criteria of the Dual Credit program through UMSL.

## SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### SS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Grade 9

.5 credit

Semester course

Students in this course will explore the political theories, institutions, and processes that mold our government and shape public policy. Current events and trends are used as jumping-off points of discussion and as concrete illustrations of course concepts. Students will practice and apply critical reading and thinking skills, research skills, presentation and debate skills, and group processing skills. Students are required to pass a Federal and Missouri Constitution test.

*Prerequisite: none*

### SS WORLD HISTORY

Grade 10

1 credit

Year-long course

This is a two-semester chronologically organized study of geography and world history. This course will cover historical developments, events, and people who influenced and shaped world history from ancient times to the present. Students are expected to complete readings in and beyond the textbook, examine primary documents, write essays, conduct research, and participate in class discussions.

*Prerequisite: none*



# SOCIAL STUDIES

## SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### SS AP WORLD HISTORY: MODERN

Grade 10

1 credit

Year-long course

This AP course will cover the events and people who influenced and shaped the major regions of the globe from 1100 to the present. It will explore the themes of interaction between humans and the environment, the development and interaction of cultures, state building and conflict, interaction of economic systems, and the development of societies. Students are expected to complete reading in and beyond the textbook, examine primary documents, write essays, conduct research, and participate in class discussions. Students can expect the course to be reading and writing intensive.

*Prerequisite: 3.5 GPA and departmental approval*

*Taking the AP exam, World History: Modern, is required for this course.*

### SS AMERICAN HISTORY

Grade 11

1 credit

Year-long course

This course is a survey of American history from the Civil War era to the present. Upon completion, students should be able to analyze significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in American history since the Civil War. An emphasis is placed on project based historical inquiry, reading, examination of primary sources, and active participation.

*Prerequisite: none*

### SS AP/ACP AMERICAN HISTORY

Grade 11

1 credit

Year-long course

This course will examine the development of American life and culture, from Indigenous cultures to the present day. First semester will examine developments through 1877; second semester will examine changes from 1877 to present. Students will develop skills that will allow them to analyze sources, weigh interpretations, and create evidence-based arguments. An emphasis will also be placed on applying history to today's world in relevant and meaningful ways. Students can expect the course to be reading and writing intensive.

*Prerequisite: 3.5 GPA and departmental approval*

*Taking the AP exam, United States History, is optional for this course.*

*Registering for college credit is optional for this course.*

*Students have the opportunity to earn 6 college credits for this year-long course from UMSL:*

*HIST 1001 American Civilization to 1865 (3 credits)*

*HIST 1002 American Civilization 1865 to present (3 credits)*

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### SS GEOGRAPHY AND CULTURE

Grade 10, 11, 12

.5 credit

Semester course

Students will be introduced to the five themes of geography: location (position on earth's surface), place (physical and human characteristics), human-environment interactions (shaping the landscape), movement (humans interacting with the earth), and regions (how they form and change) through the study and evaluation of each of the continents. The course will go beyond maps and place a special focus on human geography, including where different peoples live, their customs, food, styles of clothing, and how they impact the world around them.

*Prerequisite: none*

### SS PSYCHOLOGY

Grade 11, 12

.5 credit

Semester course

This course focuses on the study of human behavior. As an introduction to the field of psychology, this course includes consideration of psychological principles, terminology, major theories, careers, methods of experimentation, and practical applications. Special topics include personality development, problem-solving, group dynamics, and motivation. Students will practice and apply critical reading skills, critical thinking skills, research skills, presentation and debate skills, and group processing skills

*Prerequisite: none*

### SS TOPICS IN SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 11, 12

.5 credit

Semester course

*Topics for 2022-23: Crime in History and St. Louis History*

This semester course will cover two topics of Social Studies, with each student taking one topic for the first quarter and the other topic for the second. This course allows students an opportunity to learn how to do a deep-dive into a topic: accessing, exploring, and analyzing primary and secondary sources. Students will have two different teachers, switching at the quarter to the other teacher and the other topic. While the topics may seem unrelated, the skills built in both quarters will be the same.

*Prerequisite: none*

### SS ACP PSYCHOLOGY

Grade 11, 12

.5 credit

Semester course

This course focuses on individual behavior and why an individual thinks, feels, and reacts to certain stimuli. Major emphasis will be placed on research methods, stages in childhood and adolescence, how the brain works, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders. Students will practice and apply critical reading skills, critical thinking skills, research skills, presentation and debate skills, and group processing skills.

*Prerequisite: 3.5 GPA and departmental approval*

*Registering for college credit is optional for this course.*

*Students have the opportunity to earn 3 college credits for this semester course through UMSL:*

*PSYCH 1003 General Psychology*

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### SS AP/ACP US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Grade 11, 12

1 credit

Year-long course

Students will examine the development and differences in political beliefs, and how those beliefs impact our democracy and current issues. Students will learn by examining and analyzing multiple perspectives on such topics as: civil liberties and civil rights. Social and public opinion will also be explored. A major emphasis in the course is for students to develop and defend their views on issues in a respectful, well-informed manner.

*Prerequisite: 3.5 GPA and departmental approval*

*Taking the AP exam, United States Government and Politics, is optional for this course.*

*Registering for college credit is optional for this course.*

*Students have the opportunity to earn 3 college credits for this year-long course through UMSL: Pol Sci 1100: Introduction to American Politics*



### SS MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY SINCE 1945

Grade 12

.5 credit

Semester course

This class will examine the development of American culture and society, with an emphasis on the 1960s through the 1990s. The course will focus on how pop culture and social changes have defined America, and time will be taken to connect those developments to today. Specific attention will be given to the changing identity of music, from rock to rap, the influential nature of TV shows and movies, and social movements that have developed, such as the women's movement and African American civil rights movement. Students can expect to read primary sources from significant historical figures, but also examine key pieces of pop culture, such as TV shows and movies, song lyrics, and short stories from these decades.

*Prerequisite: none*

### SS ACP SOCIOLOGY

Grade 12

.5 credit

Semester course

This course is an introductory course designed to familiarize students with various cultures and the situations resulting from people living in groups. This course covers such topics as culture, subcultures, social institutions, collective behavior, social change, social deviation, the family, religion, racial and ethnic minorities, poverty, and crime. The latter portion of this course deals specifically with the pressing problems of our society, their causes, and possible solutions.

*Prerequisite: 3.5 GPA and departmental approval*

*Registering for college credit is optional for this course.*

*Students have the opportunity to earn 3 college credits for this semester course through UMSL: SOC 1010 Intro to Sociology*

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### SS HONORS MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY SINCE 1945

Grade 12

.5 credit

Semester course

This class will focus on the development of American life and culture, especially from the 1970s to the 2000s. Topics will include changes in music, TV/movies, and fashion; as well as social history, such as women and African Americans. Students can expect to read primary sources from significant historical figures and key pieces of pop culture (TV shows and movies, song lyrics, and short stories from these decades). They will examine differing perspectives from historians and create their own interpretations through discussion and writing.

*Prerequisite: departmental approval*

### SS HONORS VOICES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Grade 12

1 credit

Year-long course

*(.5 credit English and .5 credit Social Studies)*

This is a cross-curricular English and Social Studies course. The course will discuss major violations of human rights around the globe over the past 40 years - with an emphasis on genocides. It will also cover violations in North Korea, Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia, and current conflicts. The overwhelming theme/response to all aspects of this course is outrage at how these violations could occur in the modern world and disbelief that this is the first time many are hearing about them. For each conflict studied, students will read and discuss texts, debate, engage, and attempt to find solutions for these large scale problems. Additionally, a large part of this course will be the culminating research paper and presentation. This project will impact all aspects of academic growth, and it will be worth it.

*Prerequisite: instructor/departmental approval*