

AMERICAN HISTORY FAQ'S



How do I satisfy the American History requirement for graduation?

You may satisfy the American History graduation requirement by completing any of the following classes: American Society Block, American Studies, U.S. History Traditional, or AP US History.

Which class should I take?

It is your choice, but you should consider when you are ready academically for the expectations of these junior-level courses, what content you are interested in, and what skills you want to develop.

| | Recommended Grades | Content Covered | Skills Involved |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| American Society (Block) | 10 th Grade only. A, B or C in Honors World History <u>or</u> A or B in World Geography plus A, B or C in English I. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 A humanities approach to the economic, political, social, and cultural history spanning from colonization to the 1990's. 📖 Strong emphasis on connecting literature to historical time periods. 📖 Focused exploration of the arts and popular culture during historical eras. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Intensive reading connected to various works of literature, including novels. ☑ Research and essay writing. ☑ Presentations and skits ☑ Primary source analyses: documents, art, music, poetry, maps, etc. |
| American Studies | 11 th Any. 10 th A, B or C in Honors World History <u>or</u> A or B in World Geography. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 The economic, political, social, and cultural history spanning from colonization to the 1990's. 📖 Focused exploration of cultural changes such as art, architecture, fashion and music during the time periods. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Intensive reading. ☑ Essay writing. ☑ Research, presentations and skits ☑ Primary source analyses: documents, art, etc. |
| U.S. History Traditional | 11 th Any. 10 th A, B or C in Honors World History <u>or</u> A or B in World Geography. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 The economic, political, social, and cultural history spanning from colonization to the current presidency. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Intensive reading. ☑ Essay writing. ☑ Research papers. ☑ Document and graphic analysis for essay questions. |
| AP U.S. History | 11 th or 12 th Most students take an AP Social Studies course as preparation for this, but it is not required. Teacher recommendation strongly advised. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 The economic, political, social, and cultural history spanning from early America to the present at the collegiate level. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Very intensive reading of a <u>college</u> textbook. ☑ Essay writing at the <u>collegiate</u> level. ☑ Expansive critical thinking ability. ☑ Ability to analyze primary sources and documents from the time periods. ☑ Mastering extensive factual knowledge at a rapid pace. |

(over)

Which of the three non-AP courses is more difficult?

They all require doing homework, reading, writing, and critical thinking. Each course utilizes the same textbook and each has comparable amounts of homework.

If I sign up for one class and don't like it, can I switch into a different class?

No. Since each course covers its own unique content, you are unable to switch into a different course once the semester begins nor at the end of first semester.

If I want to take one of the American History options as a Sophomore but have a C or lower as a Freshman, what should I do?

Remember that the American History classes are designed as junior-level content and skills courses. If you are struggling in a Social Studies course as a freshman, you will be misplaced taking these courses as a sophomore. We suggest that you wait a year, get an extra year of reading and writing through English II, and then sign up for either U.S. History Traditional or American Studies as a junior.

Is there an advantage to taking these courses your sophomore year?

Yes, it satisfies a graduation requirement a year earlier and it opens your schedule during your junior and senior year to take elective classes.

If you have questions, talk to any Social Studies Department teacher or Mr. McManamen, the Department Chair, at 630.428.6176 or email him at Tom_McManamen@ipspd.org.

