

Amador Valley High School - Social Science Department

Courses Available in the Social Sciences:

9th grade:

Global Studies Honors Global Studies

10th Grade:

World History Honors World History AP World History

11th Grade:

U.S. History AP U.S. History

12th Grade:

Civics/Economics AP Government/Economics

Electives:

AP Government - Comp Civics (12th only) Psychology(11th-12th) AP Psychology(11th-12th)
AP Human Geography (11th-12th) Law & Society (10th-12th)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between Honors Global Studies and College Prep Global Studies?

A: Both courses are a semester long classes taken as freshman that back up to Health. Both courses use the same textbook and cover the same standards. The difference is the pacing and the amount of writing and additional research required. In Honors Global Studies, students will cover about a chapter a week as opposed to one chapter every two weeks in College Prep. In addition, there is more in class writing in Honors and a Critical Thinking Paper requirement.

Q: Are there requirements to get into Honors Global Studies?

A: There is not a test to be accepted into Honors Global Studies. Students select it on their schedule form. Since it is open enrollment though, students need to realize that once they have signed up for a class, they cannot change their schedule one school starts if the class is too hard if there is no space available in a College Prep Global Studies class. The best predictors of success are Reading Comprehension scores from the standardized tests taken every Spring. If students are scoring in the 5 range they should be successful. If they are scoring lower than a 5, it may be a struggle for them.

Q: What is the difference between AP, Honors and College Prep World History?

A: An Honors class works at a faster pace than a college prep class. Tests, writing assignments and quizzes account for a larger % of the grade than in a college prep class. An Honors class will help prepare students to make the transition to an AP class as a junior. A College Prep class seeks to develop and build the skills that a student will need at the next level of education.

Q: What is the homework load in an AP class?

A: In an AP class, a student can expect 7-10 pages of reading per night including weekends. There is also a considerable summer work assignment as well. In an Honors class, there is about 5-7 pages of HW per night, whereas a College Prep class might have only 3-5 pages per night with no homework on the weekends.

Q: If a student doesn't take AP as a sophomore, can they still other AP classes as a junior?

A: Yes. AP classes are open to all students.

Q: Is it possible to transfer out of an AP class?

A: It is important to remember that the ability to transfer out of an AP class depends on space availability in other classes. Further, students who drop an AP class, will take their grade at that point in the AP class, with them to the new class.

Q: What courses are students required to take in Social Studies at Amador?

A: All students are required to take a semester of Global Studies as a freshman, followed by a year of World History as a sophomore, a year of United States History as a Junior, and a semester each of Civics and Economics during their senior year. On top of those courses, we have numerous elective classes that they can take during the four years.

Q: When can students complete their 20 hours of service learning required for graduation?

A: Students must either complete their 20 hours during their senior year or the summer preceding their senior year. All hours must be complete by May of their graduating year, for example, this year service learning must be complete by may 5th, 2010.