



Arlington High School History Department Course Offerings 2016-2017

Core Courses



10th Grade: US History 1 (Curriculum A, B, and Honors)

**11th Grade: US History 2(Curriculum A, B, and Honors)
or AP US History**

12th Grade: Electives

Curriculum B: this level will primarily focus on teaching direct skills and strategies related to reading, writing, and research with considerable guidance and support provided by the teacher(s).

Curriculum A: at this level, students will be working towards becoming more independent learners and should be able to read and investigate primary and secondary sources, write analytical essays, and complete original research with some support from the teacher.

Honors: this level requires students to function at a high academic level, process information deeply, read and outline independently, and analyze and synthesize information to draw unique, original conclusions. Students will be expected to complete reading and writing assignments with little teacher support and conduct original research above grade level.

Advanced Placement: this level is an intensive, rigorous, fast-paced class that requires students to learn two semesters worth of college content in one year. This level is best suited for students who are highly motivated, independent learners, who can read, write, and research with little to no support from a teacher. Students who take AP classes are expected to take the AP exam in May.



Elective Options (Open to Juniors & Seniors)

Elective Courses



New Courses!

- American Popular Culture (semester, heterogeneous)
- Psychology & Human Behavior (semester, heterogeneous)
- AP US Government & Politics (year)

Year-Long AP Weighted Courses:

- AP European History
- AP Psychology
- SUPA Introduction to the Analysis of Public Policy
- SUPA Economics Issues & Ideas

Semester-Long Heterogeneous Courses:

- American Law
- Intro to Economics
- Race, Society & Identity
- Symposium on Current World Issues

AP European History

(year)



Do you sometimes wonder about that Bohemian dude who threw the Holy Roman Emperor's official out a window? (Don't worry, he was fine – he landed in a pile of manure)

Are you curious about that war between England and Spain that started because a Spaniard cut off an Englishman's ear?

What about that French socialist who claimed that eventually the oceans would lose their salinity and turn to lemonade?



Probably not...but aren't these stories fantastic?
Learn about these and more in AP European History!



- We cover European History from the Late Middle Ages to 2001
- We practice skills to prepare for the AP Euro Exam, like multiple choice questions, DBQ writing, and essay writing
- We engage in lively conversation about history
- We do fun activities in class like simulations, debates, newspaper projects, and art analysis

Come join us! Ask a current AP Euro student (or Ms. Camelio) about all the fun they're having and all the stuff they're learning!

AP US Government & Politics (year)



US Government and Politics is the study of the United States national government's policies, institutions, and foundations. Topics include:

- constitutional theories forming the basis of government
- political beliefs and behaviors
- political parties, interest groups, and the mass media
- the Congress, presidency, bureaucracy, and Federal court system
- public policy
- civil rights and civil liberties

This course gives students an analytical perspective on American government and politics that prepares them to take the AP US Government and Politics exam. The course is a rigorous, intensive, and is taught with college-level texts.

Recommended if you:

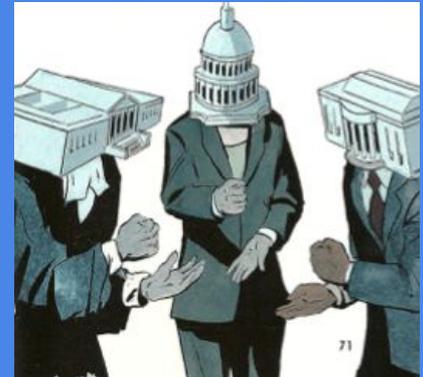
- Are interested in Government & Politics
- Enjoy debates, simulations, role-playing, web based video games
- Are a members of the Young Republicans/ Young Democrats, Model U.N., and/or Model Congress clubs
- Plan to vote in the upcoming 2016 Election

Planned Field Trips:

- Massachusetts State House
- Edward M. Kennedy Institute (full-scale replica of U.S. Senate Floor and simulation)

Planned guest speakers:

- State Senator Donnelly and/or Representative Garballey
- Representative from Congresswoman Clark's office



Syracuse University Project Advance Courses



Syracuse University Project Advance is a program run by Syracuse University that is similar to Advanced Placement courses. Just like the AP classes, you can get college credit for taking these classes. These credits transfer to about 90% of the colleges and universities in the United States. You don't have to take a test that determines if you can transfer the credit! Instead as long as you get a C in the class you will be able to transfer the credits. This also gives the teacher a little more flexibility so they do not need to teach to the test. In fact Public Policy is a project based class so projects make up the majority of the grade.

The SUPA classes follows the same curriculum as the class at Syracuse follows. Therefore they are college classes so the SUPA classes are weighted the same as AP classes here at AHS.

In the 2016-2017 school year we will offer three SUPA Classes.

- Economics Issues and Ideas
- Presentational Speaking (Public Speaking)
- Public Policy



If you have any questions about SUPA see Mr. MacKay in RM 231.

SUPA Public Policy & Analysis

(3 Syracuse University credits- semester)



Have you ever wondered why a policy was put in place? Have you ever wondered where that policy came from or who created it? The *Introduction to the Analysis of Public Policy* focuses on how effective policy is made in the United States. [Click here for a good reason why colleges think you should take this class](#)

The course focuses on the following topics:

1. Identifying Societal Problems, Policy, and Players/Stakeholders
2. Gathering Information
3. Describing the Problem, Identifying the Causes, Formulating a Policy
4. Examining Costs and Benefits of a Policy, Benchmarking a Policy
5. Forecasting Implementation of Policy, Developing Political Strategies and Writing a Memo

Students learn about the policy making process through experience. Students will find a societal problem they would like to fix and will work to create a policy to fix that problem throughout the semester. The work requires close attention to detail, requires students to divide up tasks and work in small groups, requires students to balance their schedule and requires them to learn and use valuable communication and networking skills. When completed, each group writes a specific policy memo and presents on their findings of the societal problem and their policy to fix that problem.

SUPA Economics Issues & Ideas

(3 Syracuse University credits- semester)



- ▶ Do you want to major in business?
- ▶ Do you want to receive 3 college credits while taking a class at AHS, without taking an AP Test?
- ▶ Do you want to learn when you should ask for a raise?
- ▶ Do you want to learn what professions will be expanding in the next couple of decades?
- ▶ Do you want to learn what will happen to interest rates on college loans?



Economics is a study of capitalism. Since we live in a capitalistic society you will learn these and many more concepts that will be applicable to the real world!

If this interest you and you want to be prepared for business school, then SUPA Economics is the class for you. Please see Mr. MacKay in room 231 with any questions.

American Popular Culture

(semester; curriculum A or honors)



Do you enjoy listening to music, watching movies and TV shows, reading magazines, fashion, and/or going to sporting events? If your answer was “yes” to any part of that question then American Popular Culture is the elective for you. In this project-based class you will learn about what makes something or someone popular and how those ideas change over time. You’ll use your own experiences as a teenager living in the U.S. to understand and examine pop culture. You’ll learn about and explore trends and fads in all aspects of American life from the early 1900s to today.

Students will write reviews/reflections on various types of American media that they will listen to and view, research elements of pop culture, and create multimedia projects. There will not be any tests in this course.

Please contact Mrs. Clark at lclark@arlington.k12.ma.us or in room 234 with any questions.



Psychology and Human Behavior

(semester; curriculum A or honors)



This course is designed to provide students with a foundation in the basic theories and principles of psychology. Some of the topics included are developmental, clinical, and social psychology, learning and memory, and perception. This course asks for significant class participation, and students are encouraged to relate the material in the course with their own life experiences. Students will consider the design, implementation, and impact of groundbreaking experiments in the field that have helped us to understand human thought and behavior. By the end of the course, students will have a greater understanding of themselves and their capacity for growth by exploring a wide range of psychological phenomena. This is an introductory-level course showcasing the main ideas of psychology for students, intending to prepare them for AP Psychology.

Please contact Mr. Sandler at msandler@arlington.k12.ma.us or come by room 230 with any questions.



How did a false notion of categorizing people, lead to one of the most pernicious systems of social inequity in the world? What is privilege, who gets it and who doesn't, why? Come study and discuss the role that race has had in developing American society and how we see ourselves within it.

Half-year class, mix of films, readings and articles. Projects, class discussions and student-driven dialog.

Symposium on Current Issues

(semester; curriculum A or honors)



Symposium is a course that addresses current foreign and domestic issues of pertinent interest. It is a research and discussion based course. Your knowledge of current events will greatly expand (open to Seniors and Juniors, Curriculum A or Honors).

* Extensive use of Ipads/Chromebooks

* Field Trip Opportunities

Topics include:

- Normalization of relations with Cuba
- U.S. Foreign Policy generally

- Iran Nuclear Deal
- Syrian Conflict
- Gun Control
- U.S. Politics/2016 Election

Types of Assessments:

Short papers

Projects

News Article/Opinion-Editorial

NO TESTS

*If you want to know more, see Mr. Barry in rm 337 or email: jbarry@arlington.k12.ma.us

Introduction to Economics

(semester; curriculum A or honors)



Do you want to learn how to become a multimillionaire?

A former Intro to Economics student came back to AHS and told Mr. Dangle, “AHS needs to have more classes like Intro to Economics which prepares you for life.”

We live in a capitalistic society and the aim of the class is to learn about capitalism so you can make smart decisions throughout your life.

We learn

- How to invest
- How to be a smart shopper - When items go on sale and which items never go on sale.
- How to research buying an expensive item
- What professions will grow in the next couple of decades
- What is the main difference between a Democrat and a Republican
- How the debt could impact your life
- How taxes work and how much you may have to pay now and later



If you want to understand how capitalism will impact your life so you can make smart decisions and make life easier, then Intro to Economics is for you. Please see Mr. MacKay in room 231 with any questions.



American Law

Semester, Curriculum A or Honors



This course examines criminal, civil, and constitutional law. Major emphasis is placed upon understanding one's legal rights and responsibilities.

Students will discuss the following topics in detail:

- What is Law? Where do our laws come from and how are they made?
- The U.S. Court System- The roles/responsibilities of the different federal and state courts and jurors
- Intro to Civil Law- How does our civil justice system work and what are its pros and cons?
- Intro to Criminal Law- How are crimes defined and how does one commit a crime?
- Constitutional Law and the U.S. Supreme Court- How has the highest court interpreted laws?
- The Criminal Justice System- Arrest, Search/Seizure, Pre-trial, Trial and Sentencing Procedures

The class includes:

- Student driven discussion and debate to analyze current legal issues and practice
- Visits by police officers and attorneys to discuss issues like the arrest process, search/seizure, and students' rights in and out of school
- Examining case studies to analyze important Supreme Court decisions

