



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Description of Subject Area:

Social studies is the integrated study of economics, geography, history, political science, and the behavioral sciences of psychology, sociology, and anthropology to promote civic competence. This area of study provides an important foundation to prepare students to become engaged, informed participants committed to the ideas and values of our democratic republic, able to apply the skills of inquiry, collaboration, decision making, and problem solving (adapted from the National Council for the Social Studies definition). Students will become civically-engaged problem-solvers who critically examine their roles in local, regional, state, national, and global communities. Through the study and application of the individual disciplines of social studies (behavioral sciences, economics, geography, history, and political science), students become lifelong learners able to collaborate and thrive in our interdependent world.

Grade Levels: 9-12

Courses:

[AP Economics Macro](#)
[AP Economics Micro](#)
[AP Human Geography](#)
[AP Psychology](#)
[AP Research](#)
[AP U.S. History](#)
[AP U.S. Government and Politics](#)
[American Government](#)
[American Legal Systems](#)
[Contemporary Issues](#)
[Economics](#)
[Psychology](#)
[Sociology: American Culture](#)
[U.S. History](#)
[World Studies](#)



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: AP Economics Macro	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 11-12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Ray, M. & Anderson, D. A. (2015). <i>Krugman's Economics for AP</i> (2nd ed.). Bedford, Freeman & Worth.	

Course Overview: The purpose of an AP course in macroeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Such a course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth and international economics. Students are expected to take the AP test to potentially earn college credit.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. Basic Economic Concepts	5 days
2. Measurement of Economic Performance	12 days
3. Economic Growth and Productivity	7 days
4. Financial Sector	16 days
5. National Income and Price Determination	11 days
6. Ongoing AP Caucus	6 days
7. Inflation, Unemployment, and Stabilization Policies	22 days
8. Open Economy: International Trade and Finance	11 days



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: AP Economics Micro	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 10-12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Ray, M. & Anderson, D. A. (2015). <i>Krugman's Economics for AP</i> (2nd ed.). Bedford, Freeman & Worth.	

Course Overview: The purpose of an AP course in microeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision-makers, both consumers and producers, within the economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets and includes a study of factor markets and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students are expected to take the AP test to potentially earn college credit.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Basic Economic Concepts2. Nature and Functions of Product Markets3. Factor Markets4. Market Failure and Role of Government	



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: AP Human Geography	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 9-10	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Rubenstein, J. M. (2017). <i>The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography</i> (12th ed.). Pearson.	

Course Overview: The purpose of the Human Geography course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. To study human geography is to study the dynamic and complex relationships between peoples and the worlds they inhabit. This course introduces students to the basic geographical tools and concepts needed to understand the complexity of places and regions, and to appreciate the interconnections between their own lives and those of people in different parts of the world. Topics of study will include: population, economic development, cultural geography, agriculture, food production, urbanization and globalization. Students are expected to take the AP test to potentially earn college credit.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. Geography: Its Nature & Perspective	8 days
2. Geography of Early Economic Development	10 days
3. Population and Migration	12 days
4. People, Nature, and Culture	13 days
5. Interpreting Environmental Philosophies and Symbolic Landscapes	17 days
6. Geography of Economic Development	15 days
7. Food and Agriculture	12 days
8. Political Geography	14 days
9. Urbanization and City Spaces	19 days



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: AP Psychology	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 10-12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Myers, D. G. & DeWall, C. N. (2018). <i>Myers' Psychology for the AP Course</i> (3rd ed.). Bedford, Freeman & Worth.	

Course Overview: The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students investigate the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students are encouraged to take the AP test to potentially earn college credit.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. History and Approaches	3 days
2. Research Methods	5 days
3. Social Psychology	8 days
4. Biological Bases of Behavior	11 days
5. Sensation and Perception	7 days
6. States of Consciousness	4 days
7. Cognition	10 days
8. Learning	5 days
9. Cumulative Unit Assessments	4 days
10. Motivation and Emotion	11 days
11. Developmental Psychology	10 days
12. Personality	8 days
13. Testing and Individual Differences	7 days
14. Abnormal Behavior	9 days
15. Treatment of Psychological Disorders	6 days
16. Ongoing Critical Writing	Ongoing
17. Ongoing Critical Reading	Ongoing



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: AP U.S. Government & Politics	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 11-12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Bianco, W. T. & Canon, D. T. (2015). <i>American Politics Today</i> (4th ed.). W. W. Norton & Co.	

Course Overview: This course is designed to teach students about the history and major institutions of American government. America's political heritage, the Constitution, political ideology, linkage institutions (political parties, interest groups, the media and voting), the three branches of the government and public policy are some of the many topics that will be addressed. AP American Government satisfies one requirement for the three credits of the required social studies sequence. Students are expected to take the AP test to potentially earn college credit.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. Constitutional Underpinnings/Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	21 days
2. The Political Process	24 days
3. Policy-Making Institutions	3 days
4. Policy-Making Institutions Part II	16 days
5. The Politics of National Policy	10 days
6. A.P. Exam Review and Final Preparation	6 days
7. Ongoing AP Caucus	29 days
8. Ongoing Critical Reading and Writing	Ongoing



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: AP U.S. History	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 10-12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Brinkley, A. (2015). <i>American History: Connecting with the Past, AP Edition</i> (15th ed). McGraw Hill Education.	

Course Overview: AP U.S. History covers the development of the United States from the exploration of the Americas to contemporary times. Readings will be more extensive and at a higher level than in on-level U.S. History. Students will need to demonstrate their understanding of various historical themes and thinking skills and to write historic and data-based essays. Students are expected to take the AP test to potentially earn college credit.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. Pre-Columbian Societies	1 day
2. Transatlantic Encounters and Colonial Beginnings	5 days
3. Colonial North America	3 days
4. The American Revolutionary Era	8 days
5. The Early Republic	5 days
6. The Transformation of Economy and Society in Antebellum America	5 days
7. The Transformation of Politics in Antebellum America	4 days
8. Religion, Reform, and Renaissance in Antebellum America	6 days
9. Territorial Expansion and Manifest Destiny	3 days
10. The Crisis of the Union	4 days
11. Civil War	4 days
12. Reconstruction and the Origins of the New South	5 days



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

13. Development of the West in the Late Nineteenth Century	4 days
14. Industrial America in the Late Nineteenth Century	4 days
15. Urban Society in the Late Nineteenth Century	4 days
16. Populism and Progressivism	6 days
17. The Emergence of America as a World Power	6 days
18. The New Era: 1920's	3 days
19. The Great Depression and the New Deal	6 days
20. The Second World War	3 days
21. The Home Front During the War	3 days
22. The United States and the Early Cold War	4 days
23. The 1950's	4 days
24. The Turbulent 1960's	5 days
25. Politics and Economics at the End of the Twentieth Century	4 days
26. Society and Culture at the End of the Twentieth Century	2 days
27. The United States in the Post-Cold War World	3 days
28. Critical Reading and Writing Development	Ongoing



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: AP Research	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 12	Duration: 2 trimesters
Resource: Based upon the student's project	

Course Overview: AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and assessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000 – 5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. Developing Research Essentials	Weeks 1 - 4
2. Collating Sources and Literature Review	Weeks 5 - 8
3. Research Design and Methods	Weeks 9 - 18
4. Findings and Analysis of Data	Weeks 19 - 22
5. Data Interpretation and Final Composition	Week 23 - 26
6. Oral Presentations	Weeks 27 - 33
7. Publication and Poster Presentations	Weeks 34 - 36



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: American Government	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 11-12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Bianco, W. T. & Canon, D. T. (2015). <i>American Politics Today</i> (4th ed.). W. W. Norton & Co.	

Course Overview: This course is designed to give students a working knowledge of American government and politics at the local, state and national levels. The foundation of this course is framed with the principles of the United States Constitution and the institutions of government. From this foundation, the political process is examined through the various linkage institutions that connect citizens to their government. Public policy, the outcome of government and linkage institutions, is examined throughout the course.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. The Foundations of the United States Government	17 days
2. The United States Political System	19 days
3. The Organization of American Government: The Legislative and Executive Branches	16 days
4. The Judicial Branch, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights	6 days
5. Ongoing Critical Reading	Ongoing
6. Ongoing Critical Writing	Ongoing



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: American Legal Systems	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Wisconsin Criminal Code and relevant, current readings	

Course Overview: This course is intended to educate student-citizens about the Legal System in the United States. Freedoms, rights, responsibilities, and the law in everyday situations are the focus of this class. The Wisconsin criminal code and state regarding criminals, juveniles, and individual rights are also highlighted. Guest speakers, a courthouse field trip, and a mock trial are often included.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. Introduction to the Criminal Justice System	8 days
2. Rights and Responsibilities Upon Turning 18	5 days
3. Wisconsin Criminal Code	20 days
4. The Police	15 days
5. The Courts	15 days
6. Corrections	7 days



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: Contemporary Issues	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 11-12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Relevant, current reading gathered from newspapers, news sites, and other medium.	

Course Overview: The topics in this course are constantly changing and evolving along with recent national and world events. Some topics we will discuss include: American Politics and Media, Human Rights, Foreign Conflict and Diplomacy, Environmental Sustainability, and Public Health and Safety. Students will have opportunities to investigate, report, and discuss relevant topics of interest with these broad themes.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. American Politics and Media2. Foreign Conflict and Diplomacy3. Human Rights4. Environmental Sustainability5. Public Health and Safety	Ongoing



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: Economics	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 11-12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Clayton, G. E. (2018). <i>Understanding Economics</i> . McGraw Hill Education.	

Course Overview: This course examines basic microeconomic principles and concepts such as scarcity, supply and demand, and prices. Macroeconomic topics include GDP, the Federal Reserve system, monetary policy, and the role of the government in the economy are explored. Issues relevant to the American system of capitalism are also taught.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is Economics?2. Supply, Demand, and Price3. Market Structure4. Labor and Wages5. Economic Performance, Instability, and Methods for Achieving Stability6. Money, Banking, the Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy7. Business Organizations and the Financial Market8. Taxes and Spending9. The International Economy	Ongoing



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: Psychology	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 10-12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: No textbook. Collection of teacher generated resources.	

Course Overview: Students in this elective will investigate human behavior. Units delve into self-assessment of personality, the biological basis of behavior, mental illness and mental wellness, personality theories, research and experimentation. Students will demonstrate their knowledge by completing performance assessments for each unit.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. Psychology's History, Perspectives and Research Methods	14 days
2. The Biological Basis of Behavior	14 days
3. Development and Personality Theories	14 days
4. Social Psychology	3 days
5. Mental Health and Wellness	8 days



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: Sociology: American Culture	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 9-12	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: Shepard, J. M. & Greene, R. W. (2001). <i>Sociology and You</i> . Glencoe/McGraw Hill	

Course Overview: The course is designed to introduce students to the sociological study of American society. Major themes in sociological thinking include the interplay between the individual, groups and society, how society is both stable and changing, how groups function, the features of American culture, how deviance and conformity is achieved, and the causes and consequences of social inequality with regard to status, wealth, race and gender in the United States. Course content will be presented in a variety of ways including class discussions, films and documentaries, simulations, group problem solving, small group work, and project-based learning.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. Introduction to Sociology: Sociological Perspectives and Sociological Research	7 days
2. Culture, Social Institutions, and Social Change	18 days
3. Socialization	3 days
4. Deviance and Conformity	5 days
5. Social Structure and Group Dynamics	13 days
6. Social Inequality	18 days
7. Ongoing Critical Reading and Writing Development	Ongoing



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: U.S. History	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 10-11	Duration: 2 trimesters
Resource: McGraw Hill. (2014). <i>United States History & Geography</i> . McGraw Hill Education.	

Course Overview: United States History consists of eight content themes/ units of study. Four are addressed in the first half (U.S. History A) of the course: the American character and belief system; the women’s experience; the African American experience; and immigration. Four are also addressed in the second half (U.S. History B): boom and bust - economic development and its issues; war, peace and the responsibilities of global leadership; the American presidency, political parties and leadership; and American cultural developments.

Units/Topics:	Time Frame:
1. The American Character and Belief System - This unit follows the development of the American character and belief system, from the writing of the Magna Carta and Mayflower Compact through 9/11, with emphasis placed on prominent events, people and sociopolitical philosophies that have defined our belief system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Prioritized Standards ii. Essential Questions b. Government Theory and Organization c. Westward Expansion d. Civil War and Reconstruction e. 1920s through World War II f. Cold War and Red Scare g. Civil Rights h. The Modern Era and 9/11 	21 days
2. The Women’s Experience	10 days
3. To Civil War and Toward Civil Rights	12 days
4. Assimilation and Immigration	14 days
5. War, Peace, and the Responsibilities of Global Leadership	17 days
6. American Cultural Developments	12 days
7. Boom and Bust: Economic Development and Its Issues	17 days
8. The American Presidency, Political Parties, and Leadership	12 days
9. Ongoing Critical Reading and Writing Development	Ongoing
10. Ongoing Social Studies Skills Unit	Ongoing



Mequon-Thiensville School District

High School Social Studies Courses Scope & Sequence

Course Name: World Studies	Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 9-10	Duration: 1 trimester
Resource: 1) Rubenstein, J. (2019). <i>Contemporary Human Geography</i> . Pearson. 2) Hart, D. (2011). <i>Geography Alive: Regions and People</i> . Teachers' Curriculum Institute.	

Course Overview: The objectives of this course are to develop an awareness and understanding of the present conditions in major areas of the world. To do this, students will examine the social, political, economic and religious roots of a number of important countries with different cultural backgrounds and development from 1600 to present.

Topics/Units:	Time Frame:
1. Challenges to the Established Order: Reformation, Scientific Revolution and English Civil War	8 days
2. French Revolution	7 days
3. Industrial Revolution	9 days
4. Reform, Reaction, and Nationalism: Europe 1830-WWI	12 days
5. Imperialism: 1850-WWI: Africa, Asia, Latin America and Middle East	12 days
6. World War I	10 days
7. Awakening Global Perspective	6 days
8. Europe Between the Wars	7 days
9. World War II and the Cold War	18 days
10. New Nations Emerge: Resulting in Regional Conflict	11 days
11. The World Today	16 days
12. Final Exam	2 days
13. Themes of Geography	Ongoing
14. Social Studies Skills	Ongoing