

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENTAL CURRICULUM PROFILE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Lyons-Decatur Social Studies program offers students a wide variety of options and opportunities to become more highly informed and aware citizen of the United States and Nebraska. With most courses being mandatory courses including World History, American History to the Civil War, Global Studies, American History after the Civil War, and Government, students are exposed to global history and United States history. Students are offered elective opportunities including Modern Problems and American History – Cold War to present-day. These courses cover current events including such topics from the Holocaust to the present day.

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Lyons-Decatur Social Studies Department is to develop students into life-long critical thinkers and high quality citizens of the United States. Lyons-Decatur provides students with a vast knowledge of the history of the world and the United States so as to offer a challenging and relevant curriculum that will help students in any career related fields. Courses will be conducted in a manner to reach many different learning styles and in accordance to Nebraska and national standards. It is our philosophy to develop students into critical thinkers ready to encounter the challenges of the 21st century.

OBJECTIVES IN THE SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Upon completion of courses in the Social Studies program, students will be able to:

- Analyze and interpret key concepts from the Constitution of the United States.
- Distinguish the similarities and differences between the three branches of government
- Create timelines of dates and events from key time periods in history
- Identify the locations of cities, states, countries, and continents on a map
- Utilize technology in understanding the cultural, ideological, and physical systems of the United States and other regions throughout the world.
- Compare and contrast the major religions of the world.
- Compare and contrast the major government and economic systems of the world
- Write a research paper in APA format
- Construct graphic organizers to manage information
- Interpret reading material – both primary and secondary sources - including textbooks, newspapers, magazines, cartoons, and articles through the use of graphic organizers.
- Present information in an organized and thorough manner through visual and oral presentation methods.
- Follow a rubric in completing projects
- Function as informed citizens in the 21st century
- Explore political ideologies and beliefs as they relate to others and themselves.
- Vote based on their own political beliefs and ideologies

COURSE SEQUENCE

Required Courses

1. World History – 7th Grade
2. American History – 8th Grade
3. Global Studies – 9th Grade
4. World History – 10th Grade
5. American History – 11th Grade
6. American Government – 12th Grade

Elective Courses

1. Modern History
2. Modern Problems
3. Psychology
4. Careers
5. Adolescent Skills

Social Studies Course Descriptions

World History

Length: Year

Grade Level: 7

Description: World History is a REQUIRED one-year course. Students will study the origins of human beings in Africa and the early civilizations that flourished in the Mediterranean area. They study the religions, governments, trade, philosophies, and art of these civilizations as well as the powerful ideas that arose in the ancient world and profoundly shaped the course of world history. These ideas include monotheism, democracy, the rule of law, individual worth, personal responsibility, the alphabetic principle for a writing system, and scientific reasoning. Civilizations covered include: Mesopotamia and other river valley civilizations around the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers; Egypt, Phoenicia; Ancient Israel; Ancient Greece; and Ancient Rome.

American History – 8th Grade

Length: Year

Grade Level: 8

Description: American History is a REQUIRED one-year course. Students examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States during the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. They learn about the important political and economic factors that contributed to the outbreak of the Revolution as well as the consequences of the Revolution, including the writing and key ideas of the U.S. Constitution. Students also study the basic framework of American democracy and the basic concepts of America government such as popular sovereignty, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights. Students study America's westward expansion, the establishment of political parties, and economic and social change. Finally, students will learn about the growth of sectional conflict, how sectional conflict led to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War, including Reconstruction.

Global Studies

Length: Semester

Grade Level: 9

Description: Global Studies is a REQUIRED one-year course. Students will compare and contrast the human and the physical geography of varying places in the world. Students will be exploring learning about the world's regions, countries and important global issues that affect the people living there. Along with this, students will learn where the world's countries, major cities and landforms are located. Students will also be familiar with the cultural geography of major countries and continents. Students can expect to be involved in producing maps, use technology to understand the culture of different people groups, engage in small group and large group projects and activities, assessed in the format of projects, quizzes, and tests.

World History

Length: Year

Grade Level: 10

Description: The World History course at Lyons-Decatur Northeast is designed to help students think critically, write persuasively, and discuss articulately. World History is about people and their problems. Their struggles, solutions, failures, and successes are the story of history. This World History class mostly covers the period of 1000 AD to Present.

American History

Length: Year

Grade Level: 11

Description: American History is a REQUIRED one-year course. Students will analyze the causes and consequences of the Industrial Revolution and America's growing role in diplomatic relations. Students will study the goals and accomplishments of the Progressive movement and the New Deal. Students will also learn about the various factors that led to America's entry into World War II, as well as the consequences of World War II on American life. Finally, students will study the causes and course of the Cold War, important economic and political changes during the Cold War, including the Civil Rights movement, and recent events and trends that have shaped modern-day America.

American Government

Length: Year

Grade Level: 12

Description: American Government is a REQUIRED one-year course that concentrates on the key concepts involved with democracy in the United States. Students will understand the history of American government from its earliest roots in Ancient Greece and Rome to our present-day government. Students will evaluate the Constitution of the United States as they identify the three branches of government and the significance of the system of checks and balances. Students will understand Nebraska government as it relates historically and currently. Students will become informed and involved citizens of the United States of America.

Modern History – Cold War to Modern Day

Length: Semester

Grade Levels: 10-12

Description: American History is a one-semester ELECTIVE course. Students will study the causes and course of the Cold War, important economic and political changes during the Cold War, including the Civil Rights movement, and recent events and trends that have shaped modern-day America. Students will understand the cultural aspects of each time period from the Cold War to present-day including music, people, and ideas. Students will complete papers and projects that reflect an accurate and informed perspective from various sources such as books, documents, newspapers, radio broadcasts, and videos.

Modern Problems

Length: Semester

Grade Levels: 10-12

Description: Modern Problems is an ELECTIVE class. The focus of this class will be those current events that are changing our social, political, and economic life. The course will also cover recent religious and militaristic events that shape our world today. The student will discuss appropriate topics in daily class discussion. Daily news sources, such as newspapers, television news shows, radio, magazines, and the Internet will be used in this class. Students will be involved in creating a solution to a modern problem in this community.

Adolescent Skills

Length: One Quarter (Nine Weeks)

Grade Level: 7

Description: Adolescent Skills is a comprehensive, positive youth development program designed to teach life and citizenship skills. It enables students to use problem-solving and resolution skills to choose wisely in life.

Careers

Length: One Quarter (Nine Weeks)

Grade Level: 8

Description: This class explores the World of Work through the Nebraska Career Field model. Students are exposed to all Career Fields through classroom activities and the Nebraska Career Connections program.

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Psychology

Length: Semester

Grade Level: 11-12

Description: This class explores the areas of brain physiology and mental processes. Students explore the various subjects through research, study, experimentation, and projects.