

Welcome to the POB/JFK High School Social Studies Department



2017-18

Elective Course Guide

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A.P. Human Geography: Grades 9-12 (1 Credit)

-To what extent do the demographics of age, sex, race and ethnicity impact population issues?

-In what ways does culture spread from one location to another?

- How do natural disasters/hazards and region variations impact population patterns?

- You will grapple with all of these questions and more as you undertake a journey that will leave you with a deeper understanding of the interactions between humans and our habitats.

A.P. Psychology: Grades 10-12 (1 Credit)

- You will be exposed to the psychological theories associated with each of the major subfields within psychology.
- You will understand the dynamic interaction between all the forces and factors that allow us to function on a daily basis.

A.P. Psychology + Lab: Grades 10-11 (2 Credits)

- AP Psychology plus an additional lab period devoted to applying various research methods.



Social Science Research Lab: Grades 11-12 (1 Credit)

- This course is taken after AP Psychology + Lab.
- Prepares you to submit behavioral science projects into various national research competitions.

A.P. Capstone Seminar: Grades 11-12 (1 Credit)

- You will develop critical thinking skills that foster independent thinking.
- Your communications skills will be strengthened through collaboration and presentation.
- You will question, research, explore, pose solutions, and develop arguments all while increasing your college readiness.

Introduction to Historical Research:
Grades 9-10 (1 Credit)

- This elective will introduce you to the process of history based research.
- You will produce projects built around your interests and improve your research skills.
- Projects can include documentary making, theatrical performance, website design, exhibit curating, and essay writing.
- You will have the opportunity to participate in National History Day.



History through Film: Grades 9-12
(½ Credit)

- You will interpret key events in history through the analysis of films, critical essays and traditional historical sources.
- Examples of films shown include: The Patriot, Gangs of New York and Born on the Fourth of July.



Introductory Psychology: 10-12
(½ Credit)

- This course is designed to acquaint you with the introductory concepts of psychology.
- Areas of study include: personality development, personality testing, psychological aspects of dreaming, and coping with frustration, anxiety and stress, and types of mental illness.



Child Psychology: Grades 10-12
(½ Credit)

- This course is designed to introduce you to the factors that interact which influence and shape a child's developmental process.
- Topics include: attachment and the development of self, social-emotional and identity development, and cognitive development.
- You will begin to understand the various functions of a child's behavior and be able to predict future behaviors by understanding behavioral patterns.

Terrorism Today: Grades 9-12
(½ Credit)

- How much do we really know about terrorism in the world today?
- What drives an individual to join a group committed to violent action?
- Why do some groups employ violence while others do not?
- This course will address these and other questions.
- Case studies about terrorism will include groups such as the IRA, Al-Qaeda and ISIS.
- This course will also study domestic hate groups.



Power & Politics in the 20th Century:
Grades 9-12 (½ Credit)

- This course offers a survey of the major conflicts and resolutions that came to define the 20th century.
- You will look closely at why countries behave the way they do.
- Through case studies of leaders from F.D.R. to Osama Bin Laden, you will begin to understand the rise and necessity of an interconnected global era.