

# GFW

HIGH SCHOOL  
2020 - 2021



Mr. Johnston  
Principal



Mr. Bellows  
Counselor

# GFW HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

**Coursework Completion:** Students will need a total of 24 credits to graduate. These will include 15.5 credits of required coursework plus 8.5 credits of electives.

## **English** (Total of 4 credits)

- 1 credit of English 9
- 1 credit of English 10
- 1 credit of English 11
- 1 credit of English 12 or College Literature & College Speech

## **Math** (Total of 3 credits) - \*4 credits required by some colleges

- 1 credit of Geometry
- 1 credit of Algebra II
- 1 credit of Algebra III

## **Science** (Total of 3 credits)

- 1 credit of Physical Science
- 1 credit of General Biology
- 1 credit of Chemistry or Physics                      \*Food Chemistry an option but not preferred by colleges

## **Social Studies** (Total of 3.5 credits)

- 1 credit of World History 9
- 1 credit of U.S. History 10
- .5 credit of Geography or College Geography
- .5 credit of Economics or College Economics
- .5 credit of US Government or College Government

## **Physical Education & Health** (Total of 1 credit)

- .5 credit of PE
- .5 credit of Health

## **Fine Arts** (Total of 1 credit)

- 1 credit of Band, Choir, or Multi-Media

## **Electives** (Total of 8.5 credits)

**Note:** University of Minnesota requires two years of the same foreign language, if English is native language.

**Note:** The University of Minnesota requires 4 credits of Math.

# GFW HIGH SCHOOL GRADING SCALES

## A - F / 4.0 Scale

SCORE	GPA VALUE
A	4
A-	3.667
B+	3.333
B	3
B-	2.667
C+	2.333
C	2
D+	1.333
D	1
D-	.667
F	0

## A - F / 5.0 Weighted Scale

College Now courses are calculated using the 5.0 scale. Other courses use a 4.0 scale when calculating student GPA's.

SCORE	GPA VALUE
A	5
A-	4.667
B+	4.333
B	4
B-	3.667
C+	3.333
C	3
D+	2.333
D	2
D-	1.667
F	0

## GFW HONOR ROLL

3.67 - 4.0 = A Honor Roll  
2.667 - 3.666 = B Honor Roll

## SENIOR HONORS

Summa Cum Laude      GPA 3.75 - 4.000(+) Gold Cord  
Magna Cum Laude      GPA 3.45 - 3.749      Red Cord  
Cum Laude              GPA 3.20 - 3.449      White Cord

*Senior* honors are based on weighted CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE after eight semesters. Honor recognition will be designated on the graduation program and by honor cords.

## Universal Grading Scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62

## Semester Due Dates

All grades are finalized one week after the end of the semester. This includes retakes unless approved by teachers.

## **NCAA Guidelines**

(National Collegiate Athletic Association)

Students who have plans to participate as student-athletes at Division I or Division II schools must meet specific academic and test score requirements in order to be eligible to participate their first year in college.

General eligibility requirements for prospective student-athletes can be found on the GFW website under the Parent tab > Information & Resources. For all eligibility requirements, please refer to the NCAA Clearinghouse website [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) Check with the counselor to see what courses meet the academic requirements of the NCAA>

Students should register with the Clearinghouse and submit a transcript late in their sophomore year or early in their junior year.

## **College Now Classes**

The SMSU (Southwest Minnesota State University) College Now Program provides high school students the opportunity to earn college credit at the high school level. Classes in the College Now program are comparable to college classroom instruction. To inquire about being accepted into these classes, please contact the high school counselor.

## **PSEO (Post-Secondary Educational Option)**

Under Minnesota statute, sophomores, juniors and seniors who are enrolled in high school may be concurrently enrolled in a post-secondary institution provided certain criteria are met. Because of the different criteria each individual school establishes, anyone wanting information about PSEO is encouraged to talk to the high school counselor.

All PSEO course grades will be based on the standard weight scale.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL: Grades 7 - 12**

Students run for office and the student body votes by grade. If elected, they are required to attend all meetings, which are held before or after school. Student Council members are involved in things such as: first day of school activities, Homecoming, Spring Fling, Student Council division meetings, and promoting activities meant to enhance the school environment.

### **POP CHOIR: Grades 9 - 12**

A student should be a member of the concert choir to qualify. Pop Choir is by audition only, but exceptions may be made at the discretion of the director. Students will sing and dance to pop, swing and jazz. There is a fine arts fee for this activity.

### **JAZZ BAND: Grades 9 - 12**

There will be performances at winter and spring concerts, state music contest, jazz festival, and other community events. Jazz Band meets in the mornings at 7:15. Practices average two to three times per week. Some evening practices MAY be scheduled if needed. There is a fine arts fee for this activity.

### **FFA: Grades 7 - 12**

Students must be enrolled in an ag course or have already completed an ag course. Meetings are once a month before school. FFA members are involved with fundraisers, group outings, and attend events relating to agriculture and leadership.

### **KNOWLEDGE BOWL: Grades 7 - 12**

Students compete in competitions with their teammates at area schools. Questions are taken from the average curriculum, including Minnesota history, geography, math, science and english.

### **JUNIOR HIGH KNOWLEDGE BOWL 7 - 9**

Practice starts in the fall and competitions run October - December. Questions are based on 7-9 curriculum. There is a fee for this activity.

### **SENIOR HIGH KNOWLEDGE BOWL: Grades 9 - 12**

Ninth graders have the unique ability to be part of the junior high and the senior high teams (this involves a separate fee). Practices start in the fall with the competition meets running from December through March. There is a fee for this activity.

## **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY: Grades 11 - 12**

Each spring students in grades 10, 11 and 12 who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above, are invited to fill out a student activity information form. A five-member faculty council selects students for membership. Selection is based on careful consideration of scholarship, leadership, service and character. The NHS strives to recognize the total student: one who excels in all these areas in activities and everyday life. Meetings are usually once a month. Students are involved in activities including bloodmobile, staff appreciation breakfast, NHS tutors and more.

## **THEATRE I - FALL: Grades 7 - 12**

Students have an opportunity to be a part of the play in the fall production. Even years are a full-length (two- or three-act) play, odd years we produce a musical. Areas of participation include acting and/or singing, sound tech, lighting tech, spotlight, student directing, set construction/crew, costumes, publicity, hair, makeup. The play is performed between fall sports and Thanksgiving. There is a fee for this activity.

## **THEATRE II - WINTER: Grades 7 - 12**

The winter activity includes One Act Play or skits. The One Act Play competes against other schools in the MSHSL competition (limit of 20 cast and crew members) at the end of January. Areas of participation include acting, sound tech, lighting tech, spotlight, student directing, set construction/crew, costumes, publicity, hair, makeup. There is a separate fine arts fee for this activity.

Theatre is dependent on participation and students are required to attend rehearsal (as is the requirement in sports). Only those willing to commit to that time should apply.

## **JUNIOR PROM COMMITTEE**

Junior who are interested in helping plan and organize Prom should contact the Prom Advisor (Mrs. Panitzke) in the fall. The committee will meet from October to January. The Friday before Prom the committee members in good standing earn the ability to spend the school day decorating the gym and bringing their ideas to life.

## **SPORTS:**

### **FALL**

Football  
Volleyball  
Dance Team  
Cross Country  
Bowling

### **WINTER**

Basketball  
Dance  
Wrestling

### **SPRING**

Track  
Golf  
Baseball  
Softball  
Trap Shooting

## **AGRICULTURE**

**AG001**

**Animal Science**

9

10-X

11-X

12-X

Credit: .5

This course teaches the skills required for a career in agri-business and/or marketing. Topics will include marketing of agricultural products, future commodity markets, human relations, and salesmanship. This course will also cover the past, present, and future of technology in agriculture and how it impacts the management practices of the agribusiness person. Highly recommended for juniors and seniors but is open to sophomores.

**AG005**

**Plant Science**

9

10-X

11-X

12-X

Credit: .5

This course will introduce students to the stimulating experiences and occupations involved with plant systems and horticulture. There will be laboratory projects and other hands-on activities. Topics covered include: taxonomy and classification, anatomy and physiology, environmental concerns, reproduction, genetics, plant and propagation. The Thunderbird Greenhouse business is also cared for and run by students in the plant science class. Time spent outside of school at the greenhouse is required

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## ENGLISH

### EN050S1 & EN050S2

#### English 9

9-X 10 11 12

Credit: 1.0

English 9 is designed to develop literature interpretation and appreciation. In the study of literature, the primary emphasis will be on the elements of the short story and the literary terms common throughout the other classes of literature. Students will also study basic grammar elements. General objectives for the course include the following: to write and correctly punctuate sentences, paragraphs, and longer forms of writing, to develop understanding and interpretive skills while enjoying short stories and other forms of literature such as the *Odyssey*, and to be introduced to drama through Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. A multicultural novel reading will also take place.

### EN051S1 & EN051S2

#### English 10

9 10-X 11 12

Credit: 1.0

English 10 will focus on literary analysis such as controlling ideas, word meanings, literary structure and recurring themes through the use of the short story and at least four novels throughout the year. This course will also study the role of Latin and Greek roots' impact on language as well as the history of the English language while touching on grammatical reviews.

### EN072S1 & EN072S2

#### English 11

9 10 11-X 12

Credit: 1.0

English 11 is designed to explore literature, poetry, and public speaking elements. The primary emphasis will be on characterization, point of view, author's perspective, poetry terminology, speaking techniques, outlines, and other elements of persuasion. Several classic novels will be studied. Multicultural novels and modern perspectives will also be read, discussed, and analyzed. Emphasis will be placed on developing independent reading habits and proper writing skills for secondary education and beyond.

### EN073S1 & EN073S2

#### English 12

9 10 11 12-X

Credit: 1.0

English 12 will deal with a new subject each quarter. First quarter will cover the fundamentals of writing a research paper including proper research, structure and documentation. Second quarter will be dedicated to public speaking and will include areas of research, preparation and delivery of a variety of speeches. Third quarter will be dedicated to literature and fourth will be devoted to a senior project. The project will encompass the lessons learned in the first three quarters. Students will read a book of their choosing, write a research paper on a related topic and deliver a speech on the theme of the book.

## ENGLISH

**EN069**

**College Speech**

9

10

11-X

12-X

Credit: .5

Public speaking skills are essential for career and college readiness. Whether you're heading to a two-year or a four-year college, or straight into the workplace, this class is for you. This is a required course at colleges.

This course teaches the use of verbal and nonverbal communication to organize and deliver effective oral presentations. Additional emphasis is placed on identifying and overcoming listening barriers. Speech assignments include: Impromptu, Extemporaneous, Persuasive, Informative Group Discussion, and Introducing a Speaker. We will work on choosing speech topics which are creative, novel, unique, and appropriate for your audience. This class is taught from a perspective that provides feedback and constructive criticism to fellow classmates, which is as important as the required performance activities themselves.

**PREREQUISITES:** Student enrolling must have successfully completed two years of high school English for graduation credit and meet the following:

Grade 11 must have over a 3.0 cumulative GPA and rank in the top  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the class.

Grade 12 must have over a 3.0 cumulative GPA and rank in the top  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the class.

Qualifies as a writing class.

**EN068**

**College Literature**

9

10

11-X

12-X

Credit: .5

This course will deepen students' understanding and appreciation of literature as an art form as well as strengthen students' ability to read short stories, poems, novels and drama for meaning.

**PREREQUISITES:** Student enrolling must have successfully completed two years of high school English for graduation credit and meet the following:

Grade 11 must have over a 3.0 cumulative GPA and rank in the top  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the class.

Grade 12 must have over a 3.0 cumulative GPA and rank in the top  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the class.

Qualifies as a literature class.

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**FX134**

**Culinary II**

**9-X 10-X 11-X 12-X**

Credit: .5

This class builds on what was previously learned in the Culinary I class. Students will be involved in selecting recipes and planning labs and will study and complete a project for both regional and foreign foods.

\$20 lab fee

PREREQUISITES: Culinary I

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## FINE ARTS

### **FA099S1 & FA099S2**

#### **Men's Choir**

9-X 10-X 11 12

Credit: 1.0

This choir is for 9th and 10th grades. Performers will sing a wide variety of songs, some selected by the students. The choir will be introduced to various styles of our musical heritage, including: sacred works, spirituals, folk tunes, jazz, classical, multicultural, Broadway tunes and pop. Dance and/or movement will be incorporated into several selections to enhance the performance. Attendance at all performances is required. Students will attend scheduled lessons to work on individual improvements. Qualifies for 1.0 Fine Arts Credit

### **FA100S1 & FA100S2**

#### **Women's Choir**

9-X 10-X 11 12

Credit: 1.0

This choir is for 9th and 10th grades. Performers will sing a wide variety of songs, some selected by the students. The choir will be introduced to various styles of our musical heritage, including: sacred works, spirituals, folk tunes, jazz, classical, multicultural, Broadway tunes and pop. Dance and/or movement will be incorporated into several selections to enhance the performance. Attendance at all performances is required. Students will attend scheduled lessons to work on individual improvements. Qualifies for 1.0 Fine Arts Credit

### **FA091S1 & FA091S2**

#### **Concert Choir**

9 10 11-X 12-X

Credit: 1.0

This course will involve students performing choral music of various styles, traditional and modern tunes including: sacred, spirituals, folk, jazz, classical, multicultural, Broadway and pop. With four part singing being the norm, independent singing, vocal techniques and blending of choral tones are stressed as the students experience the joy of choral performance. Dance and/or movement will be incorporated into several selections to enhance performance. Opportunities for solo and ensemble groups and attending festivals and contests exist for those who qualify. Attendance at lessons and performances is required.

This is a full year class. Students may participate in the second semester only with permission from the director and the principal.

Sophomores may register with the consent of the director through an audition. This audition must be done three weeks before a student registers for classes.

Qualifies for 1.0 Fine Arts Credit

**PREREQUISITES:** Mixed choir or teacher permission.

## **FINE ARTS**

### **FA092S1 & FA092S2**

### **Concert Band**

9-X 10-X 11-X 12-X

Credit: 1.0

This course will afford students the opportunity to increase their musical skills in the areas of performance, listening, and appreciation. Students must actively participate in band rehearsals, sectionals, marching band, pep band, concerts, clinics, and school activities. Lessons, pep band and attendance at performances are required.

This is a full year class. Students may participate in the second semester only with permission from the director and the principal.

PREREQUISITES: Band 8 or instructor permission.

Qualifies for 1.0 Fine Arts Credit

### **CO041S1 & CO041S2**

### **Multimedia**

9-X 10-X 11-X 12-X

I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII

Credit: .5

Students will focus on individual projects to gain experience and develop computer application skills. This is a hands-on course in which you will develop a series of designs or projects that can be used by businesses or organizations for promotional or information purposes. The skills developed in this course will help you create visually appealing presentations in other courses or can be expanded into a future career. Students are required to develop a Website portfolio of their work and to present their work during grading sessions with the instructor. Students will have access to many computer applications including: Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Premiere Pro, Lightroom, Adobe Auditions, Blender, Sketchup, and more.

Students must receive a grade of "C" or better to take the next level of this course.

These courses qualify for .5 Fine Arts credits.

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## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### **FL070S1 & FL070S2**

### **Spanish I**

9-X 10-X 11-X 12-X

Credit: 1.0

Emphasis during Spanish I is speaking and listening. Students will learn a lot of vocabulary and some reading and writing. Some traditions and contemporary lifestyles of Spanish speaking people will be introduced. In this class you are expected to start speaking Spanish .....sometimes in front of the class. Some projects are offered but a large emphasis is placed on learning the basis of the language. There will be a comprehensive final exam.

SPECIAL NOTES: Freshmen interested in taking Spanish should be allowed entry if space is available. Fluent native speakers who read and write in Spanish can generally skip level one with instructor's permission.

### **FL071S1 & FL071S2**

### **Spanish II**

9 10-X 11-X 12-X

Credit: 1.0

This course is a continuation of Spanish I and advances to an intermediate level of study in the Spanish language with more emphasis placed on grammar and verb conjugations. Classes will be conducted in Spanish some of the time. Students are expected to communicate in class in the target language. There is much emphasis on new grammatical structures and vocabulary. There will be a comprehensive final exam. This class offers a good placement for fluent native speakers.

PREREQUISITES: B-average or better in Spanish I or instructor permission.

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## INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

### IT025S1 & IT025S2

#### Woodworking I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII

9-X 10-X 11-X 12-X

Credit: .5

These are hands-on courses in which the student will design and build a project appropriate for the level they are at. Woodworking I students will choose and build one of the three projects designed to provide them experience using many of the major woodworking tools and equipment. All students will learn the safe and proper use of the table saw, jointer, planer, radial arm saw, miter saw and band saw.

Whether your interest is to develop skills for a future career or to try out a new hobby, you should find these courses both challenging and engaging. Students are required to develop a website showcasing their work.

Students must receive a grade of "C" or better to take the next level of this course.

### IT021

#### Mechanical Skills

9-X 10-X 11-X 12-X

Credit: .5

This course will focus on basic skills needed to be successful in the Metal shop as well as gaining valuable life skills. Students will engage in hands on activities such as: basic construction, electricity, plumbing, and drywall. Students will also gain introductory welding skills in oxy fuel operation, SMAW (stick welding), GMAW (wire feed welding) and plasma cutting.

Priority will be given to 9th and 10th graders.

### IT020

#### Advanced Welding

9 10-X 11-X 12-X

Credit: .5

Advanced welding skills and metal preparation will be covered the first half of this class. Students will be extending their skills beyond what they accomplished in Mechanical Skills. The second half of the semester will be dedicated to their independent design project. Students will draft their project, create a bill of materials and order materials and finally construct their project.

PREREQUISITE: 80% or higher on welding skills in Mechanical Skills.

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## MATH

### **MA080S1 & MA080S2**

### **Plane Geometry**

9-X 10- 11 12

Credit: 1.0

Students are introduced to plane and solid figures: angles, lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons and their properties. The class will build logical reasoning skills through inductive and deductive reasoning to construct proofs using two-column or paragraph proofs.

This course is designed to partially meet the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in the geometry strand.

### **MA078S1 & MA078S2**

### **Algebra II**

9 10-X 11 12

Credit: 1.0

This course will include the following topics: linear functions, quadratic functions, quadratic equations, polynomial functions, factoring and solving equations and introductions to rational expressions.

This course is designed to partially meet the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Mathematics in the algebra strand.

### **MA055S1 & MA055S2**

### **Algebra III**

9 10 11-X 12

Credit: 1.0

Topics covered will include: rational expressions, systems of equations, radicals and complex numbers, quadratic equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, and introductions to sequences. There will also be an introduction to probability and statistics. With the following topics being covered: an introduction to measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion, frequency distributions, large and small samples, testing of hypotheses and correlation analysis. We will use technology when appropriate to help analyze data, create graphs and interpret graphs.

This course is designed to complete the Minnesota K-12 academic standards in the math and algebra strand.

PREREQUISITES: Algebra II and Plane Geometry

### **MA100**

### **Intro to Calculus**

9 10 11 12-X

Credit: .5

This course is an introduction to the three main parts of calculus which are limits, derivatives and integrals. We will investigate the three topics algebraically and graphically. The intent of the course is to challenge students with problem solving and give them an idea of what they would see in a first semester college calculus course.

PREREQUISITES: Algebra II, Plane Geometry & Algebra III

## **MATH**

### **MA093**

#### **College Algebra**

9

10

11

12-X

Credit: .5

This course offers mathematical topics for students who wish to push their study of mathematics to a higher level. Topics include: equations and inequalities, functions, graphs, polynomials, systems of equations, matrices and determinants.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Three years of high school math including at least one year of algebra.

Grade 12 must have over a 3.0 cumulative GPA and rank in the top 1 /2 of the class.

### **MA095**

#### **Financial Math**

9

10

11-X

12-X

Credit: .5

This course offers a practical application of mathematics with a focus on personal financial topics. The intent of this course is to give students exposure to everyday math. This course will include the following topics: Consumer Credit, Retirement planning, health insurance, life insurance, budgeting home and auto purchases and much more. The class will be designed to teach you everyday math skills that are part of being a financially successful individual.

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## **APEX**

**PW120S1 & PW120S2**

**Apex**

9

10

11-X

12-X

Credit: .5

This is an alternative program to provide coursework in areas such as the following:

- A. Credit Recovery
- B. Medical terminology
- C. A career investigation in a specific occupation
- D. Foreign language

Any course that is not offered in the regular GFW curriculum may be considered for credit with agreement of the APEX instructor.

PREREQUISITES: Mr. Bellow's approval and signature.

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## SCIENCE

### SC135S1 & SC135S2

### Physical Science 9

9-X 10 11 12

Credit: 1.0

This course will cover the fundamentals of chemistry and physics. The first semester will be chemistry and topics will include the structure of matter, the periodic table and chemical reactions. The second semester will be physics which includes, motion, Newton's Laws, power and energy, heat, waves, optics and sometimes electricity and magnetism.

### SC136S1 & SC136S2

### General Biology

9 10-X 11 12

Credit: 1.0

General biology is a full year course that involves the scientific study of life. Students will learn about biological concepts, theories and principles through the investigation and analysis of cells, organisms, and ecosystems. Microscopic techniques and other laboratory procedures are emphasized throughout the course.

### SC139S1 & SC139S2

### Chemistry

9 10 11-X 12-X

Credit: 1.0

This course will involve the study of the composition of matter and its properties and forms. It will start with the basics of measurement and the atom and will progress through electron configurations, periodic properties, bonding, chemical reactions, formulas and equations, the mole, states of matter and thermodynamics, gases, solutions, acid-base reactions, and eventually build to electrochemistry and organic chemistry. Students will work as groups to complete lab experiments, and will have opportunities to witness firsthand the concepts they are learning about.

## SCIENCE

### SC143S1 & SC143S2

### Food Chemistry

9 10 11-X 12-X

Credit: 1.0

Food science is a growing field of study that integrates information from a broad spectrum of interest areas. The United States has the most plentiful and safe food supply in the world and there are many reasons behind this claim. Approximately one-fifth of all career options available to students involve food production.

Food Chemistry fulfills the chemistry/physics requirement for Minnesota graduation in the area of chemistry. Students will study the science of chemistry with the content of foods and our food supply. This course will help you to make better food choices based on the nutrient/chemical content of food and the processing it has undergone.

\*Food Chemistry fulfills GFW requirements, but it is not recommended for students who plan to take a college level chemistry class.

### SC145S1 & SC145S2

### Forensic Science

9 10 11-X 12-X

Credit: 1.0

Ever wonder what it would be like to star in your favorite crime scene show? Ever wonder what it would be like to use science on a daily basis? Forensic Science is the class for you! Forensic science is the application of science for solving crimes. This is a course rich in exploration and lab investigation which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as biology/anatomy, chemistry, and physics to solving crimes. The purpose of this course is for students to gain experience in the major investigative techniques currently used by forensic scientists and crime scene investigators, and to develop an understanding of the scientific concepts which serve as the basis for these techniques. Example of topics covered in this class: Observation Skills, Crime Scene Investigation, Evidence Collection, Fingerprint Analysis, Blood Evidence, Ballistics, Vehicle Accident Recreation, Etc.

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## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

**SO145S1 & SO145S2**

**World History 9**

9-X 10 11 12

Credit: 1.0

World History 9 is predominantly a World History course but will incorporate themes from all social study disciplines. The understanding of history will prepare students for the world of tomorrow. Students will not only learn the content but also be asked to draw comparisons to current events. The lessons from history will focus on what we can use not only in today's world but in everyday life. This course will also reinforce critical thinking skills, document analysis, research, writing and developing fact based arguments.

**SO145S1 & SO145S2**

**U.S. History 10**

9 10-X 11 12

Credit: 1.0

The study of history helps students to see how people in other times and places have grappled with the fundamental questions of truth, justice and personal responsibility. To understand that ideas have real consequences, and to realize that events are shaped both by ideas and the actions of individuals.

**SO14510**

**U.S. Government**

9 10 11-X 12-X

Credit: .5

The course is designed to give students a critical perspective on government in the United States and Minnesota. Topics included in this class are civic rights and responsibilities, beliefs and principles of democracy, government processes and institutions, and a historical analysis of the U.S. government.

**SO155**

**Economics**

9 10 11-X 12-X

Credit: .5

This course will use economic theory and practical use of economic concepts to help students better understand our economy and their place in that economy. Economics is the study of scarcity of resources and how governments, producers, and consumers deal with scarcity. Students will learn about microeconomics, supply and demand in a market economy, the ways of ownership of businesses and the philosophies of different economic systems.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**SO161**

**Human Geography**

9

10

11-X

12-X

Credit: .5

Willam Faulkner said, *“To understand the world, you must first understand a place like Mississippi.”* Is he challenging us to take a closer look at our humanity and the impact that our environment has on our humanity? While we may not study about Mississippi in the class, we will look at the impact that Geography has on us and the impact that we as individuals and a society have on Geography. How does Geography impact the development of a society? What are the social, political, environmental and cultural elements of a society? By addressing questions like these, we will learn to recognize the similarities of societies and to appreciate the difference among societies. Hopefully the study of Human Geography will give us a better understanding of our own humanity as well as a better understanding of our connection to others. If you want to find out why this class is **required**, then this is the class for you!

**SO154**

**Psychology**

9

10-X

11-X

12-X

Credit: .5

Psychology is the study of human and animal behavior. We will look at why people think, feel and behave as they do. By reflecting on your behaviors and the behaviors of your peers, you will gain a better understanding of yourself and others. What does it mean to be a person? Why are we here? How you answer these questions will give you insight into your motivations, emotions, thoughts and behaviors, and how you see yourself and your connection with others. We will study the following in more depth:

- \* Structures and functions of the brain: right brain/left brain
- \* Learning, memory and motivation (intrinsic and extrinsic)
- \* States of consciousness: dreaming, sleeping, hypnosis
- \* Personality traits, attitudes, beliefs
- \* Symptoms, causes and treatments of mental disorders
- \* Psychology of Good and Evil
- \* Positive psychology: the study of happiness

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**SO159** **Criminal Justice** 9 10-X 11-X 12-X  
Credit: .5

This course will be a semester long giving students an overview of the legal system, careers in law/law enforcement, trends in policing, (community policing, body cameras, counter-terrorism) criminal psychology and major issues in crime and punishment today. The course will also ask fundamental questions pertaining to law enforcement such as: Why do we have laws? What is a good law? Why do people commit crimes? We will also discuss the appropriateness of certain punishments such as the death penalty, solitary confinement and overall criminal justice reforms. Also included in this class is the opportunity to solve fake crimes and break up a crime ring.

**SO163** **Fake News (and Conspiracy Theories)** 9 10 11-X 12-X  
Credit: .5

The Earth is not flat, and we landed on the moon, but why do so many people insist such utter and blatant falsehoods are fact. Through technology we have more access to information than ever before, the problem is that so much of the information is wrong. In this course we will explore conspiracy theories, modern misconceptions, and the phenomenon of fake news. We will look at these issues and build skills to distinguish reality from fiction and decide why so many people in society today are led astray by these falsehoods . . . except the aliens, they might be real.

**SO164** **Sociology: Netflix, Hulu and You** 9 10 11-X 12-X  
Credit: .5

Using streaming sources such as Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, etc. we will look at social life, social change and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. We will explore questions like, *How have streaming sources like Netflix impacted our behavior as individuals and as a society? How are we producers and consumers of what is shown on these streaming sources? What impact could or will these sources have on how we behave as individuals and as a society in the future?* We will also explore questions like: *To what extent is an individual shaped by society? How and why has American society changed in the last 50 years: Is American Society today better than it was 10, 20, 30 or even 100 years ago?* If you have ever wondered if shows like “South Park” and “The Simpsons” are just absurd humor or a reflection of American society or if “The Walking Dead” is a description of what our current society is like if or it’s just a show about zombies, THEN THIS CLASS IS FOR YOU!

