

## Social Studies Department- Academic Expectations for Honors Classes

Pre AP courses offer a challenging curriculum and prepare students with the factual knowledge and analytical skills needed to be successful in Advanced Placement courses.

Please review the chart below and ask yourself if you are a student who –

- is very interested in history and geography and seeks intellectual challenges?
- has excellent attendance and completes homework, class work and other assignments in a timely manner?
- is a potential candidate for advanced placement history courses in freshman and sophomore years
- has strong organizational and time management skills?
- has strong reading and writing skills and is willing to improve them?
- contributes insightful and salient points to class discussions and writing assignments?
- is prepared to learn and use effective strategies for comprehending textbook and historical documents?
- is prepared to learn effective strategies to be successful on challenging common assessments and quarterly exams?
- is an *independent* learner who is anxious to improve your skills?



The chart below provides an approximation of the time and assignments for the Pre AP courses offered in the Social Studies Department and may vary from student to student. Different teachers for the same course may have slightly different procedures, but the time commitment is about the same.

Area of Study	Suggested prerequisites	# of pages to read to prepare for each class	# of hours to study and prepare for each class	Tests, Essays, Projects	Analytical Skills	Comments
<b><i>Honors World History I</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average of 20 pages of text are assigned for reading and note-taking per chapter.</li> <li>• Notes are due approximately every two weeks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will vary by student capability.</li> <li>• On average: 2-3 hours when text notes are due</li> <li>• 2 hours to study/prepare for each unit test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students test after each unit of study (15 total), plus a midterm test.</li> <li>• Tests include multiple choice, matching, geography, short answer, and essay writing</li> </ul>	2 Major projects involving historical research and the creation of a project and presentation	None	Students should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a good foundation in reading and writing skills</li> <li>• a strong work ethic</li> <li>• good organizational and time management skills</li> <li>• a willingness to learn new historical skills (note taking, essay writing, document analysis)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Honors World History II</i></b>	15-25 pages per class using <a href="#"><u>World History: Patterns of Interaction</u></a>  Most Chapters will have 4-5 Sections (average reading is 2 sections a class)	Varies on student capability; 1-2 hours for each assigned reading  1 – 2 hours of study for quizzes (this includes time provided in class)  2 – 3 hours of study to prepare for unit tests (this includes time provided in class)	Frequent Chapter Quizzes  1-2 Unit Tests covering multiple chapters per quarter (includes Document Based and Writing Essays)	One major project per quarter  Mini projects will vary each quarter  2-3 Writing assignments per quarter	None	In addition to content interest students should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have excellent attendance</li> <li>be willing to invest the extra time needed for a honors level class</li> <li>be independent learners and complete all assignments on their own.</li> <li>Have good writing skills that they are willing to improve</li> </ul>

<i>Area of Study</i>	<i>Suggested prerequisites</i>	<i># of pages to read to prepare for each class</i>	<i># of hours to study and prepare for each class</i>	<i>Tests, Essays, Projects</i>	<i>Analytical Skills</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b><i>Honors US/VA History</i></b>	20-25 pages of reading for each chapter.  Each unit has 3-4 chapters of reading.	Varies. Usually 10 – 15 pages per class.	Varies by student. Average of one to two hours reading and text notes per class period.  Essays are assigned a week in advance. Preparation for essays is in addition to reading assignments.	Two Unit Tests per quarter.  One project per quarter.  Two Document Based Essays per quarter.  Research paper during the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter.  One Socratic Seminar per quarter	Writing Document Based Essays requires students to use their analytical skills to interpret documents in order to present and support a persuasive argument. In addition, students must bring in relevant historical information to support their thesis.	Students should have the following abilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interest in history</li> <li>• good attendance</li> <li>• willingness to put in the hours necessary for success</li> <li>• good reading and writing skills</li> </ul>
<b><i>Honors US/VA Government</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest in government and/or politics</li> <li>• Self-motivated reader</li> <li>• good study skills and/or a desire to improve them</li> <li>• interest in experiential (field trip, guest speaker, etc.) learning (with distance learning alternative also available)</li> </ul>	Varies, usually 12-15 (1/2 chapter) or supplemental reading (article, etc.)	Varies, usually 40+ minutes per class.	2-4 tests per quarter, covering 1-3 chapters.  One major project per quarter (equals a test grade)  Research paper during 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter, presenting in 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter.	Students will: gain an analytical perspective on US/Va gov and politics by studying the general concepts used to interpret US politics and analyzing specific examples; learn how to analyze political cartoons and interpret basic data relevant to US gov and politics; research and write to prepare for college and career related to gov and civics.	Students should be self-motivated to read non-fiction and follow news, as well as write. Also important is access to internet outside of school for independent research.