

Social Studies Department

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Teacher's Name

Philip Reuland

Dr. Ian Whitney

Classes Offered

US History I & II
Salem: A Modern City, Current
Events, Sociology & World Studies

Psychology

The Social Studies Department at Salem High School offers a rich variety of courses in History, Social Science, Government, and Legal Studies. Students are required to earn 3 units of Social Studies to fulfill graduation requirements. One unit must be earned in United States History. The college-bound student should take four years of Social Studies.

The following is the sequence of Social Studies courses for Salem High School students:

Freshman Year: World Studies II (Required)

Sophomore Year: United States History I (Required)

Junior Year: United States History II

Electives: Semester and full year electives are available in Psychology, Sociology, Current Events, History of Salem, Sociology, and Street Law

Under this sequence of courses, the MCAS assessment in U.S. History will be administered at the end of grade 11 following completion of consecutive years of United States History I and II in the 10th and 11th grades.

In general, the Social Studies program includes a variety of learning experiences designed to equip students with the skills necessary to help them understand and be more effective citizens of the world they live in.

Toward this end, all Social Studies courses include the following goals.

- Preparing students to be lifelong learners.
- Developing civic-minded members of a free, diverse, tolerant, and democratic society.
- Preparing students to be independent and critical thinkers capable of making connections between their studies in the social sciences and the current state of the local, national, and international world they live in.
- Imparting a basic knowledge of essential facts and concepts that make comprehension and inquiry possible.
- Employing methodologies that will actively engage all students in the learning process.

Upon completing their studies in the social sciences at Salem High School, students should be able to:

- Express their mastery of the key learning objectives as articulated by the Massachusetts History and Social Studies Frameworks.
- Use, interpret, and evaluate primary and other sources.
- Identify and explain connections between social, political, intellectual, religious, and economic trends and events, both past and present.
- Demonstrate how a cause and effect relationship is different from a sequence or correlation of events and to distinguish between long and short-term cause and effect relationships.
- Identify and explain the physical and political geography of the world.
- Read for understanding.
- Take effective notes of what they are learning, seeing, reading, or listening to during their class instruction.
- Articulate their comprehension of what they learn using their own thoughts and words.
- Make presentations in a variety of formats.
- Engage in discussion, debate, and opinion development.