

HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

The study of history at Valor encourages students to be informed, perceptive and engaged citizens of the world both during their time at Valor, as well as after they have graduated. Through a variety of courses, the History Department introduces students to the challenges and rewards of studying the past. In all courses, teachers challenge students to become knowledgeable about the many peoples, cultures, events, controversies and ideas that have shaped human history. Students gain practical experience as historians by reading a range of sources, participating in discussion-oriented seminar classes, and preparing a variety of analytical and interpretive essays. The History Department seeks to show students that thinking historically about the world is a source of fascination, wisdom, and joy. In exposing students to the moral and ethical issues that have faced our predecessors, in studying the struggles and triumphs that have marked human history, and in understanding the purposes that have divided people as well as those that have united them, the study of history is a crucial part of a fulfilling liberal arts education.

While history forms the foundation for social studies, it is understood that concepts from other social sciences, including geography, political science, economics, psychology, sociology, and anthropology, must be integrated through the department's courses to provide students with a firm understanding of their principles and methodologies. To assist students in understanding the interrelationships among branches of knowledge, the interdisciplinary inclusion of other subject matter with history is also encouraged. It is further understood that students can only learn history by "doing" history, that is to say, students must be active participants in the educational process, examining primary and secondary data, debating, role-playing, identifying and considering critical questions and drawing their own conclusions through a process of critical thought. The desired end is to draw our students out into the world community, providing them with the capacity to live effective personal and public lives.

HIS 110 (112,114)

The World and the West: The Classics and their impact on Modern World History from 1500 to the Present

This college preparatory course is designed to deepen an understanding of ancient, medieval and modern world cultures. The World and the West gives various glimpses of the vast panorama of European civilization from the Greeks to post war Europe. The first semester of this year long course will focus on a study of Greek and Roman civilization, the Renaissance, Reformation and the Enlightenment. The second semester will focus on the Industrial Revolution, the growth of nationalism and imperialism, World War I, the rise of totalitarianism, World War II and the post-war years. Each unit will contain analysis of how a Christian worldview applies to the respective eras. Primary and secondary source documents will be utilized as well. *(Single gender classes available 112-SGM, 114-SGF)*
Grade: 9; **Prerequisites:** None; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

HIS 120

Honors The World and the West: The Classics and their impact on Modern World History from 1500 to the Present

This course is similar in content to The World and the West, but the amount, pace, and depth of analysis of reading and writing assignments differentiates. In addition, this course is meant to be a gateway course for future Honors and AP courses.
Grade: 9; **Prerequisites:** "A" in 8th grade social studies class; "B" or better in 8th grade honors social studies class; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

HIS 150

AP European History

This course familiarizes students with European development from 1450 to the present. This college-level course explores historical events and movements through intellectual and cultural, political and diplomatic, and social and economic perspectives. Students learn to analyze historical documents and express their historical understanding in writing while preparing for the AP Exam. *The cost for the AP exam is \$86.*
Grade: 10,11,12; **Prerequisites:** "B" or above in a previous year's Honors or AP course, "A" in a previous year's college preparatory course; Teacher recommendation; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

HIS 210

United States History

Explores the major events that have shaped United States history from colonization to present while examining the role of Christian worldview and values in our nation's development. Students learn to recognize cause and effect related to history, identify major historical turning points and develop historical interpretations through primary source analysis.
Grade: 10,11,12; **Prerequisites:** None; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

HIS 250

AP United States History

Provides students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with issues and developments in United States history from the exploration to modern period. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by a college course. Students learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. This course develops the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format. *The cost for the AP exam is \$86.*
Grades: 10,11,12; **Prerequisites:** "B" or above in a previous year's Honors or AP course, "A" in a previous year's college preparatory course; Teacher recommendation; **Term:** Full Year; **Credit:** 1.0

HIS 305

United States Government

This college preparatory course is designed to deepen an understanding of the American story, focusing on the purposes of, functions of and challenges faced by our domestic governing bodies. The Valor U.S. Government course equips students with a utilitarian body of knowledge intended to inspire their generation to take a more active role in both local and national politics, and encourages a deeper respect for and understanding of the issues which divide, and unite, our society. Emphasis will also be placed on improvement of writing skills, oral presentation skills and technology skills.

Grade: 10,11,12; **Prerequisites:** None; **Term:** Semester; **Credit:** .5

HIS 315

Economics

This college preparatory course is designed to deepen an understanding of the global story, focusing on the central questions about how mankind attempts to meet unlimited needs and wants with scarce resources. The Valor Economics course equips students with a utilitarian body of knowledge intended to inspire the next generation to take sincere ownership over their choices and resources, and encourages a deeper respect for and understanding of the issues which shape intrinsic and extrinsic satisfaction in life. Emphasis will also be placed on improvement of writing skills, oral presentation skills and technology skills.

Grade: 10,11,12; **Prerequisites:** None; **Term:** Semester; **Credit:** .5

HIS 325

Controversial America: Rights and Rifts of the 1960's

This college preparatory course is offered as an elective option within the history department. The course will be offered for one semester and will fulfill 0.5 credits toward graduation. Students will explore the basics of the 1960s, as well as complete an in-depth study of the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the cultural and political traditions in the United States and around the world. This course will focus on events and ideas that shaped the outlook of the American populous during the 1960s and will offer the climate to parallel those thoughts to the America that we know today. Emphasis will be placed on the war in Vietnam, political assassinations, generational conflict and the "counterculture", the women's rights movement, and the rise for the "new right" in American politics. The course will combine knowledge gained through readings, lectures, and film. Readings will include, but are not limited to, Maurice Isserman and Michael Kazin, *America Divided: The Civil War of the 1960's*; Tim O'Brien *The Things They Carried*; Adam Fairclough, *Better Day Coming*;

Grade: 10,11,12; **Prerequisites:** None; **Term:** Semester; **Credit:** .5

HIS 355

AP United States Government and Politics

This college course is designed to deepen an understanding of the American story while equipping students with advanced academic skills in the fields of writing, analysis and synthesis. AP U.S. Government provides a detailed examination of the American systems of government, ranging from municipal to federal. This semester-long course will focus on political philosophies, socialization, the structure and functioning of our federal government, historical interpretations of the Constitution and specific preparation for the AP Exam. Each unit will be illustrated with primary sources and supplementary secondary sources. Emphasis will be placed on equipping the student with tools necessary both to exceed the standards of the College Board's AP Gov. Exam as well as developing necessary skills as required by future professors/employers. *The cost for the AP exam is \$86.*

Grade: 10,11,12; **Prerequisites:** "B" or above in a previous year's Honors or AP course, "A" in a previous year's college preparatory course; Teacher recommendation; **Term:** Spring Semester; **Credit:** 0.5

HIS 365

AP Microeconomics

This AP college preparatory course is designed to deepen an understanding of the global story, focusing on the central questions about how mankind attempts to meet unlimited needs and wants with scarce resources. The Valor AP microeconomics course will cover how the individual interacts within the economy as with a semester dedicated to the topic. Microeconomics will give the student a thorough understanding of decision making both on the individual side, as well as on the producer side, within economic systems. This part of the course will also focus on the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equality within the economy. Emphasis will also be placed on improvement of writing skills, speaking and listening skills, oral presentation skills and technology skills will receive attention as part of the Valor History Department.

Grade: 11,12; **Prerequisites:** None; **Term:** Semester; **Credit:** .5

HIS 375

AP Macroeconomics

This AP college preparatory course is designed to deepen an understanding of the global story, focusing on the central questions about how mankind attempts to meet unlimited needs and wants with scarce resources. The Valor AP macroeconomics course will cover how economic systems interact with the economy as a whole as a semester dedicated to the topic. Macroeconomics will give the student a thorough understanding of economics that apply to economics systems. This part of the course will focus upon national income, price-level determination, economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. This course promotes the understanding of aggregate economic activity; the utilization of resources within and across countries; and the critical evaluation of determinants of economic progress and economic decisions made by policymakers. Emphasis will also be placed on improvement of writing skills specifically solving policy questions, speaking and listening skills, oral presentation skills and technology skills will receive attention as part of the Valor History Department.

Grade: 11,12; **Prerequisites:** None; **Term:** Semester; **Credit:** .5