

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy  
Lauralton Hall**

**SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
Course Descriptions 2012-2013**

*The Social Studies Department requires that each student take 3 credits on the high school level. Required courses include World History, Modern World History, U.S. Government and U.S. History.*

**Students must have a minimum final average of A (93) to move from CP1 to Honors. To remain in an Honors level course, students must maintain at least a C+ (77) average.**

**(211) World History Honors**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

This survey course traces civilization in traditional Western societies as well as in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century AD to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Skill development in note-taking, essay writing, outlining, and mapping are emphasized. Students receive detailed instruction in research methods and are required to complete a documented thesis-driven research paper. Supplemental book reports and primary source readings provide opportunity for further analysis.

**(212) World History (CP1)**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

This survey course traces civilization in traditional Western societies as well as in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century AD to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Skill development in note-taking, essay writing, outlining, and mapping is emphasized. Students receive detailed instruction in research methods and develop the skills necessary to complete a research paper. Special attention is paid to the development of computer research skills.

**(221) European History Advanced Placement – UConn ECE**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

*(Prerequisite: minimum final average of B- (80) in History 2301 or minimum average of A- (90) when averaging final grades in History 2221 and History241.) Open to juniors and seniors.*

Advanced Placement European History is a survey course open to high-achieving, motivated 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have completed an honors level history course. European History examines major trends and events from the Age of Discovery to the fall of communism. Extensive use is made of primary source documents and college level secondary materials, and emphasis is placed on analysis of historical evidence and the development of research and writing skills in history. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in the spring. Students may elect to take this course for UConn credit.

**(241) Modern World History Honors**

**Semester**

**.5 Credit**

*(Prerequisite: History 211)*

This course is a survey of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century forces of modernization on traditional Western and non-Western societies. Topics include the impact of the Industrial Revolution; Western imperialism in Asia, Africa and the Middle East; the causes and consequences of the Great War and Russian and Chinese Revolutions; and the origins and consequences of the rise of fascism. Essay writing, note-taking, debating and geography skills are emphasized, and multiple book reports and historical source readings are required.

**(242) Modern World History (CP1)** Semester .5 Credit

*(Prerequisite: History 211 or 212)*

This course is a survey of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century forces of modernization on traditional Western and non-Western societies. Topics include the impact of the Industrial Revolution; Western imperialism in Asia, Africa and the Middle East; the causes and the consequences of the Great War and Russian and Chinese Revolutions; and the origins and consequences of the rise of fascism. Essay writing, note-taking, and geography skills are emphasized, and outside book reports are required. Special attention is paid to the development of Internet information gathering skills.

**(2221) United States Government Honors** Semester .5 Credit

*(Prerequisite: History 211)*

This course includes the study of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the United States government and an examination of the Constitution with special emphasis on the development of the Bill of Rights and its application in recent years. Students continue to refine research gathering, outlining, and note-taking skills and develop the skills necessary to complete a research paper.

**(2222) United States Government (CP1)** Semester .5 Credit

*(Prerequisite: History 211 or 212)*

This course includes the study of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government and examines the constitutional history of the United States with special emphasis on the application of the Bill of Rights in recent years. Students continue to refine research gathering, outlining, and note-taking skills and develop the skills necessary to complete a research paper.

**(2301) United States History Advanced Placement - UConn ECE** Year 1 Credit

*(Prerequisite: minimum final average of B- (80) in History 2211 or minimum average of A- (90) when averaging final grades in History 2221 and History 241.)*

This course begins with the Columbian explorations and concludes with modern day America. Designed to challenge disciplined students who demonstrate talent and interest in history, the course requirements include the writing of expository essays, book reports and a comprehensive research project. Practice is provided in taking the objective test, free-choice essay, and documents-based essay sections of the AP examination. Sound writing skills are highly recommended. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in the spring. Students may elect to take this course for UConn credit.

**(231) United States History Honors** Year 1 Credit

*(Prerequisite: History 2211, a minimum average of C+(77) when averaging final grades in History 241 and 2221, or minimum average of A (93) and when averaging final grades in History 2222 and History 242.) Open to juniors and seniors.*

This course presents an economic, social, and political survey of the history of the United States beginning in the Jeffersonian period and concluding with Modern Day America. The development of essay writing, primary source analysis, and computer research skills is emphasized. Multiple book reports, supplementary historical readings and an extended documented research paper with a thesis statement are assigned.

**(232) United States History (CP1)** Year 1 Credit

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This course is a survey of selected topics in the history of the United States beginning in the Jeffersonian period and concluding with Modern Day America. The development of essay writing and computer research skills is emphasized. Book reports and a documented research paper with a thesis statement are required.

**(251) Economics Honors** Semester .5 Credit

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This course is a one-semester elective course designed to approximate an introductory college level course in microeconomics. The course emphasis is on the development of research, presentation and writing skills in economics.

**(272) Current Issues (CP1)** Semester .5 Credit

*Open to seniors.*

The goal of this seminar is to have open discussions of political and social issues and raise awareness of current world events. Students are required to research, report and write often. They learn how to be critical consumers of media and focus on research-based news writing and presenting a well-informed and balanced view of an issue. Discussions are supplemented by readings, films and public speakers. Classroom discussion, presentation skills and critical thinking skills are stressed.

**(281) Global Studies Honors** Semester .5 Credit

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This elective focuses on the history and culture of selected areas of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East emphasizing connections to current world issues and events. Computer-generated research and presentation skills, essay writing, and critical thinking skills are stressed.

**(282) Global Studies (CP1)** Semester .5 Credit

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This elective focuses on the history and culture of selected areas of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East emphasizing connections to current world issues and events. Essay writing and mapping skills, as well as debating skills and computer-generated researching skills are stressed.

**(261) Women's Studies Honors** Semester .5 Credit

**Current Global Empowerment and Awareness**

*Open to juniors and seniors.*

This is a one-semester elective course. Students take on the role of investigators to examine how current women are making contributions that either empower them or make the world aware of injustices to them both globally and nationally from political, social, economic, religious, scientific, and artistic viewpoints. This is a project-based course with a class portfolio presented as a wiki page depicting collaborative research collections from websites and assessments/blogs. Students debate and discuss the researched information. Students further develop their skills in evaluating Internet sources, research, attribution and writing; recognizing point of view, historiography, rhetoric, propaganda, and metaphors; as well as strategizing to make a difference.