
Social Studies



Teachers in the Social Studies Department are committed to all students, and are proud to offer a wide range of course selections for a diverse student population. It is understood that students learn differently, and the guidelines below are intended to give guidance to students and parents for making Social Studies course selections at Fairview.

General notes:

1. As a general rule, students will receive an average of approximately 30 minutes of homework per night, regardless of course level. However, given the nature of advanced course work in the honors listings, some students may need to invest much more time working through assignments and readings.
2. A good predictor of success in a future course is how well students have performed in past courses. Additionally, students should consider the level of engagement they are making in their current social studies class. If a student is genuinely engaging the class, fulfilling all requirements, and is comfortable with the level of challenge, then a similar course offering for the next grade level is appropriate. If a student is having difficulty completing assignments on time and is not fully completing reading assignments, then a level change is recommended.
3. All classes focus on the development of core study skills: note-taking, organization, and test-taking.

Honors (International Baccalaureate—IB & IB, Advanced Placement)

Course Characteristics:

- Reading and writing intensive curriculum (one or two chapters per week), multiple writing assignments throughout the year.
- Advanced reading materials (college level text in most cases)
- Curriculum geared toward international and national standardized tests as a culminating course event
- Extended assignments

Necessary Skills:

- Strong autonomy and independent learning
- Advanced reading ability
- Ability to develop cogent arguments in written form

College-Preparatory

Course Characteristics:

- Reading and writing as a key element of the curriculum (one chapter per week or bi-weekly)
- High school level texts supplemented with advanced works
- Curriculum geared toward preparation for standard district assessments and college entrance exams
- Regular patterns of homework

Necessary Skills:

- Ability to work independently
- Comfort level in assimilating knowledge from text reading
- Strong writing ability, development of complete sentences and thesis arguments