

# **Brentwood Academy**

## **History Department Course Descriptions**

### Middle School

#### *History 6*

This class takes a tour through the history of the world visiting ancient civilizations, major wars, global revolutions, and significant figures. Students evaluate past cultures while measuring the impact of historical events on the modern world. Classroom activities include lectures, discussions, projects, simulations, debates, and review games. This course pushes students to hone their organizational disciplines and academic skills such as taking notes, reading maps, writing essays, and developing study strategies.

#### *World Geography 7*

World Geography is a study of the richness and variety of the face of our planet. Students will gain an understanding of the physical and human characteristics of diverse places. They will study the complexities of earth's cultural mosaics. They will develop the ability to map and organize information about people, places, and environments while cultivating a more robust and holistic understanding current events.

#### *Civics 8*

Eighth grade Civics provides students with a comprehensive overview of the history and development of America's political and economic systems. Through lectures, group projects, imaginative exercises and examination of primary source documents including the U. S. Constitution, students learn to appreciate the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizenship.

### Upper School

#### *Ancient History*

Ancient History examines four of the major civilizations in the history of the world: Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome. Many of the smaller civilizations of the ancient world are also studied. Every attempt is made to make the course come alive through the use of videos, slides, outside speakers, and field trips. The students engage in projects and make extensive use of the library for papers and oral presentations. As a result of this course, students are able to make comparisons between former civilizations and present ones, and begin a lifelong appreciation of several of the world's most fascinating civilizations.

#### *Ancient History Honors*

The honors section of Ancient History covers the same topics as the regular section; however, the material is studied in greater depth, and students are expected to possess a high level of critical, analytical and writing skills.

#### *World History*

This course will address the major global figures and events from 500 AD to the present. From the fall of the ancient Roman Empire to current issues in the Middle East, this class will tie together major events and concepts throughout the last fifteen hundred years in order to shed light on the current global condition. Students will hone and refine skills in historical research, analyzing primary source documents, comparing and contrasting historical concepts and identifying and utilizing evidence in making arguments.

### *World History Honors*

The honors section of World History covers the same topics as the regular section; however, the material is studied in greater depth using more challenging primary source materials, and students are expected to possess a high level of critical, writing and analytical skills.

### *AP World History: Modern*

In AP World History: Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

### *United States History*

U.S. History is a survey course that begins with a study of the political and economic situation in Europe that led to the founding of the colonies, continues with an examination of the events that defined our country's emergence as an international power in the twentieth century, and ends with present-day topics. Special attention is paid to the Colonial period, the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, the Federal period, the War of 1812, the Age of Jackson, the Antebellum period, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the demise of communism. Writing assignments throughout the year enhance a student's knowledge of the history of the United States. Through this course, students gain a new appreciation of our country's history.

### *United States History Honors*

The honors section of U.S. History covers the same topics as the regular section; however, the material is studied in greater depth using more challenging primary source materials, and students are expected to possess a high level of critical, writing and analytical skills.

### *AP United States History*

The Advanced Placement course in United States history is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the development of our nation's history. The course begins with the Age of Exploration and continues into the twenty-first century. The course develops the skills necessary to make conclusions on the basis of informed judgment and present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

### *African American History*

This course is designed to expand on the traditional United States History course by giving a comprehensive look at the historical account of Africans in America. In following the timeline of Africans coming to America from the pre-colonial period up till the present day, students examine the significant contributions of African Americans in United States history. These topics are covered during the first semester: the first Africans who came to America in the early 1500s, the rise of slavery in the colonial period and its impact on the Revolutionary War, the rising tensions of Americans over the slavery question and how it led to the Civil War, and the renewed hopes for African Americans during the period of the Reconstruction. The second semester topics offer an in-depth-look at the Jim Crow era and its impact on the South as well as the North, the rise of Jazz as a distinctively African American art form, the civil

rights movement and its role toward equality of opportunity in America, and a look at modern day race relations in America with reconciliation between blacks and whites as the central goal.

### *AP European History*

In the Advanced Placement European History course, students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of major historical events, movements, and trends from approximately 1450. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of the Advanced Placement program in European History are to develop an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, an ability to analyze historical evidence, and an ability to express that understanding and analysis in writing.

### *Economics and Government*

In the modern era, economics and government have become the language of social, political, and interpersonal discourse in America and the world. Economic laws of supply, demand, price, production possibilities, and opportunity costs are often a part of every economic argument we encounter and shape many decisions we make. The reality of the world is that human desires or wants will always exceed the resources available to satisfy them, leaving us to cope with persistent and inevitable scarcity. Topics covered in this senior-level course include micro and macroeconomic concepts, the U.S. Constitution, national and international issues as well as those affecting Tennessee. The “hot button issues” of the day will also be discussed; students will address these issues through a series of classroom debates. One quarter is dedicated to personal finance, focusing on strategies and behaviors intended to help build and maintain a solid financial foundation for a lifetime while keeping material wealth in a healthy, Christian perspective.

### *AP Economics (Macroeconomics and Microeconomics)*

The purpose of a course in Advanced Placement Economics is to give students a thorough understanding of the economic principles that apply to an economic system as a whole as well as the functions of individual decision makers within the system. This course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination and also develops students’ familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. The course also empowers students to understand smaller segments of the economy, such as consumers and producers, as they interact in output markets and resource markets, and to understand the government’s impact on these specific economic transactions.

### *AP US Government and Politics*

This course provides a nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments.