

# Deerfield High School Social Studies Information/FAQ

Classes open to Freshmen:

- World History (Honors/Standard/Survey)
- Perspectives (Standard)



Is there really three hours of homework a night in the Honors class?

NO. Homework averages 45-60 minutes per night in this class as compared to 30-45 minutes in the other classes. How long the homework takes depends on the task and how quickly the student reads and processes information.

What happened to Modern History?

Our teachers have combined the best parts of Modern History and World History into a redesigned World History course. This change has been piloted successfully during the current school year.

What about Perspectives?

Perspectives is a team-taught class that has two teachers (English & Social Studies) for two class periods. The class is scheduled so that three days a week it will have both periods meet, and the other two days it will only meet for one period. The classes are frequently broken into smaller groups to work on various tasks. Homework assignments and major assessments are combined, not broken into the two different disciplines (for example, when an essay is due, there is one essay, not two different ones). The same holds true for the grade--students will get one grade that will apply to both parts of the course. The content of Perspectives is similar to World History from a Social Studies standpoint. Perspectives uses the same textbook as the non-Honors World History classes do.

If I am recommended for World History can I take Perspectives?

YES. Recommendations are important more for the level (Honors/Standard/Survey) than any specific course.

What are the graduation requirements for Social Studies?

- 2 years of credit, which must include 1 year of US History
- all students must pass at least 1 semester of civics education to graduate. Courses that meet this requirement are:
  - Political Science
  - International Relations
  - Sociology

- Issues in Modern American Society
- AP US Politics & Government

## What if I do not take Social Studies as a freshman?

Not taking a freshman social studies course means that you are unable to take an AP or elective, including meeting your civics requirement, as a sophomore.

## If I take a standard level class, can I take AP classes in the future?

**ABSOLUTELY.** If you want to take an AP class as a sophomore, the key is to take any social studies class as a freshman.

The focus of all Social Studies classes for freshmen is on skill development in the following areas:

- reading ● research
- writing ● verbal communication