Civics/American Government
Teacher: Penny Mears
Level: 2, 3
Credit: .5
Meets: Fall semester, once weekly (see grid)
Text:
- *Anatomy of the Constitution*, (provided by Mrs. Mears)
- Additional regular text: TBD
- **Level 3 students**: *Unlocking the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence*,

Homework time expectation: 2-3 hours weekly
Teaching format: Lecture, class discussion, video clips, weekly current event articles, homework
Description: This class will cover the history of American government, including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, branches of government and how they work, how elections work, and citizenship. There will be in-class discussions, in-class activities, and weekly current event articles about the government. Additionally, there will be reading assignments with homework questions, in-class quizzes, and a take-home final test will be given.

Level 3 students will be assigned additional reading and homework from the required additional text.

Economics
Teacher: Penny Mears
Level: 2, 3
Credit: .5
Meets: Spring semester, once weekly (see grid)
Text: TBD
Homework time expectation: 2-3 hours weekly
Teaching format: Lecture, discussion, class activities, video clips, one group presentation
Description: This class will cover economic systems used around the world: capitalism, communism, socialism, and the different components of America’s economic system. We will learn how and why these systems are used in various countries. There will be in-class quizzes and a take-home final test. Homework will include reading, vocabulary & chapter questions, web quests, etc. There is one group project for the semester.

**Level 3** students will also be required to complete a research paper on a famous economist and his/her economic philosophies (list of names to be provided by Mrs. Mears). Students will then present this research in class.
**Geography**

Teacher: Penny Mears  
Level: 3  
Credit: .5  
Meets: Fall semester, weekly (see grid) **Note: Minimum of 8 students needed to hold class**  
Homework time expectation: 2 hours weekly, depending on reading speed  
Teaching format: Lecture, hands-on activities, projects  
Description: We will spend half of each class studying the physical geography of the world (weather, volcanoes, earthquakes, mountains, lithosphere, biosphere, waterways, etc.) and the other half studying the seven continents. Two weeks will be spent on each continent. There will be some homework assignments from the textbook and in-class activities. We will have a quiz on each continent, a quiz on every two textbook chapters, and a final at the end of the semester. For each continent, the students will have to complete an important facts worksheet about one country from that continent.

**Modern America History, Level 2**

Teacher: Penny Mears  
Level: 2  
Credit: 1  
Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)  
Homework time expectation: 2-3 hours weekly, depending on reading speed  
Teaching format: Lecture, discussion, class activities, power points and video clips  
Description: We will study Modern American History from Reconstruction through the 1990s. Each unit will last approximately 4 weeks, ending with a take home test. At the end of each unit, students will make a presentation on a topic from the unit. Students will receive a list of projects from which they can choose. There will be weekly homework assignments.

**Modern World History, Level 3**

Teacher: Will Hahn  
Level: 3 (level up possible)  
Credit: 1  
Meets: Full year, once weekly (see grid)  
Prerequisites: Study of ancient world history is helpful; American history not required  
Text: *Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction* (McDougall Little)  
(Editions vary and often available used. A syllabus with page numbers based on my edition will be provided, and we can make any necessary adjustments.)  
Homework time expectation: 1-3 hours weekly, varies with reading speed and comprehension  
Teaching format: Lecture with discussion, four tests, two papers, and several PBL (problem-based learning) projects.
Description: The emergence of the world we live in today becomes increasingly familiar. How did the major themes of democracy, freedom, tolerance and the place of religion evolve starting from the Renaissance and exploration of new continents down to the present day? What can we see of God’s plan for humanity amid all the wars and tumult of the recent past? Once familiar with the complexity of these questions, students will be better prepared to take their place as adults in pursuing their own answer.

Note-taking and organization will be important for the long-term retention of terms and ideas used over the course of the year. Students will receive weighted grade-scores in Attendance/Participation, Homework, as well as Test, PBL Paper and Project grades.

Philosophy of Utopia
Teacher: Will Hahn
Level: 2/3, (Level-up possible)
Credit: .5
Meets: 1 semester, weekly (see grid)
Prerequisites: Not recommended for students who hate having to think.
Text: We will choose from the reading list below. Most titles are available freely (as e-book downloads) through either Amazon or Project Gutenberg.
Homework time expectation: 2-4 hours weekly, varies with reading speed
Teaching format: Typically, we will aim to read about 100 pages per week; most books will take 2 or 3 class meetings to complete. Students will have short-answer questions to answer in the reading guides provided for each story. Level 3 and higher students will write two short papers comparing works discussed in class. Level 4 and 5 students will read and report on additional works. Enthusiastic and polite participation is class discussion will be an important part of the grade.
Description: Various great thinkers of the past have shown us their view of the ideal society or best ruler. What values lie behind these thoughts, can we agree with their ideas, and what does our faith tell us about government and our dealings with each other? Students will read some of the great works focused on the ideal government and the notion of justice, and discuss each week their own ideas and opinions in response. Two papers will express their evolving views in more detail.

Reading list: Plato, The Republic
Machiavelli, The Prince
More, Utopia
Abbott, Flatland
Aristophanes, Lysistrata
Shakespeare, Measure for Measure
Psychology
Teacher: Kym Smythe
Level: 2 (leveling up is possible)
Credit: .5
Meets: One semester, once weekly (see grid) **A minimum of 5 students needed to hold class**
Prerequisites: None
Text: *Introduction to Psychology from a Christian Worldview*, Vicki Tillman, downloadable text [www.7sistershomeschool.com](http://www.7sistershomeschool.com)
Homework time expectation: 1-2 hours weekly
Teaching format: Lecture, homework, tests, discussion, projects/papers
Description: This course will introduce you to the major areas of psychology from a Christian worldview. Topics covered include: the brain, perception, genetics, learn, history of psychology, communication, needs & motivation, personality, sleep & dreams, abnormal psychology, and careers in psychology.

Sociology
Teacher: Kay Hampson
Level: 3 (Students may level up by reading & completing chapters not covered in class)
Credit: .5
Meets: once weekly for one semester (see Grid)
Prerequisites: This class is appropriate for grades 10-12
Text: Holt Sociology - *The Study of Human Relationships* (textbook only)
ISBN: 0030374960
Homework time expectation: 1.5 hours weekly
Teaching format: Lecture, homework, discussion, project
Description: Course topics include study of culture, social structures, cultural conformity & adaptation, types of societies, agents of socialization, the adolescent in society, deviance & social control, stratification, racial & ethnic relations, education & religion, science & mass media, collective behavior & social movements.