

Updated 8/5/20

## Social Sciences/Social Studies Class Descriptions, 2020-2021

### **Civics/American Government**

Teacher: Jessica Bunitsky

Level: 2, 3,4,5

Credit: .5

Meets: Spring semester, once weekly (see grid)

Text: Abeka's American Government in Christian Perspective, **Third Edition**. Amazon has 12 used copies; Christianbook sells it new.

Additional Fee: \$10 copy fee to be paid directly to Mrs. Bunitsky

Homework time expectation: 2-4 hours weekly

Description: We start by taking the citizenship test for immigrants (online, multiple choice) and to see if we could pass. We will take it again at the end. In between, in class, we will learn to appreciate the government of our great country: why America is a unique nation; and how the founders created a genius system of a federal government with plenty of checks and balances to prevent the abuse of power; and how the founders balanced power between the States and Federal government to prevent tyranny—by the government, by the majority, or by the most populous states (by the electoral college, for example). Finally, we will study the history of the Bill of Rights to appreciate the great individual freedoms we enjoy as citizens of our nation. Students will be expected to take notes. Tests will be the Abeka tests; taken closed book/notes. (higher levels available if requested by August 24)

### **Economics**

Teacher: Jessica Bunitsky

Level: 2, 3,4,5

Credit: .5

Meets: Fall semester, once weekly (see grid)

Text: Abeka's *Economics, Work and Prosperity*, **SECOND Edition**. Amazon has 27 used copies; you can also ask around on Tri-State for used copies.

Additional Fee: \$10 copy fee to be paid directly to Mrs. Bunitsky

Homework time expectation: 2-4 hours weekly

Teaching format: Lecture, discussion, class activities, video clips, one group presentation

Description: This is my favorite class to teach—I loved Economics so much in college that I made it my 2<sup>nd</sup> major. Learn about: different kinds of economies (capitalism, socialism and communism); the principles of a free market economy; the laws of supply and demand; the good that competition does; the role of government in the economy; and the problems of a command economy, like the Soviet system in Russia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Students will be expected to take notes in class; study sheets will be handed out for each test; we use the Abeka tests, taken closed-book/notes. The midterm test is cumulative; we do not take the final. (higher levels available if requested by August 24)

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## **Geography**

Teacher: Will Hahn

Level: 3

Credit: .5

Meets: Fall semester, weekly (see grid)

Text: *World Physical Geography*, Brenda Brewer Runkle, ISBN: 978-0-9825-2760-3

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 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

Each weekly chapter assignment is close to 30 pages in length.

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.

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## Philosophy of Utopia

Teacher: Will Hahn

Level: 2/3, (Level-up possible)

Credit: .5

Meets: Spring semester, once 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 in 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: Spring 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.

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## **Sociology**

**Teacher:** Kay Hampson

**Level:** 3 (Students may level up by reading & completing chapters not covered in class)

**Credit:** .5

**Meets:** Spring semester, once weekly (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.