

# Gray Matter 2019-2020 Course Catalog

---

## Social Studies

### **American History**

**Teacher:** Collin Eye

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday/Thursday

**Class Time:** 1:00 – 2:15 pm

**Duration:** 2 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** What is America? The culmination of the European Enlightenment, a nation of immigrants, a new world empire, the center of innovation and discovery, the land of the free? The question has a different answer depending on who you asked, and when. In this class, we study the history that's shaped these ideas, from discovery, colonization, and Revolution, to Civil War and Reconstruction, to World War I and Prohibition, to Great Depression and World War II, to Cold War and the Digital Age.

In this class, American History is a problem to unravel, a case to be solved. Each week students are given a series of topics and questions, then go about researching that material, and present their findings in class the following week. Students learn to thoroughly research various topics on their own, and to form a whole picture from various scraps of sometimes-contradictory accounts. Students will present their research to the class in weekly discussions where we'll discuss the discovered material and the research methods used to find it.

Students learn how to effectively search the Internet and the library for first-hand accounts, primary documents, reliable sources, and diverse perspectives.

Completion of this course fulfills a History credit required for high school.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-3 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** 3-ring binder devoted to this class only  
Notebook paper  
Pens/pencils  
Colored pencils  
Internet access at home for homework assignments

No textbook is required.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$1,144.00 is due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$127.12. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$127.12 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

---

### **Government & Economics**

**Teacher:** Ian Seamans

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday Only

**Class Time:** 9:30 – 10:45am

**Duration:** 1.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** This class prepares students with both the theoretical underpinnings of economics and government as well as the practical education needed for them to be successful and active members of their community. Government will be covered at all levels, from city, to state, to international. Micro and macroeconomics will be covered, as well as life skills including financial and information literacy.

We will use in-class discussions and debates, work-sheets, presentations, and projects in class, and textbook reading out of class in order to engage students and avoid long lectures.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-2 hour per week.

**Class Materials:** Laptop, tablet, or smartphone  
Home internet access  
Three-ring binder  
Writing utensils.  
Laptops can be supplied on request.

**Textbook:** The readings will consist of articles in scientific journals, book excerpts, or online resources. Most readings will be available online, while others can be downloaded from Canvas.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$661.50 due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$73.50. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$73.50 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

## High School World History

**Teacher:** Gaspar Escobar

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday/Thursday

**Class Time:** 1:00 – 2:15 pm

**Duration:** 2.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** This course begins with an examination of the earliest nomads and other recorded early historical civilizations, then moves to Ancient Egypt, Eastern civilizations in China and the Indian sub-continent, follows the Ancient Greeks as they develop political and philosophical frameworks, surveys the ideas that underpin the Middle Ages and lead to intellectual flowering of the Renaissance, and then considers these threads as they continue to expand into the Modern Era.

We will use different media (Audio/ Visual) to experience and learn about key moments in history and as a way to better understand the times that we discuss. Open discussion about history, its morality at the time and seen through the lens of history, and similarities between human actions in ancient and modern eras will take place almost daily. Participation will be expected and encouraged!

Reading for this course includes a textbook (TBD) and excerpts from historical writings throughout history.

**Completion of this course fulfills the World History requirement for High School.**

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 2-5 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** 1/2 inch Binder, dedicated to this class  
Pens/pencils  
Notebooks or paper (or laptop or tablet) for note taking

**Textbooks:** TBD

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$1144.00 due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$127. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$127 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

## Middle School World History & Geography

**Teacher:** Gaspar Escobar

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8

**Class Schedule:** Monday/Wednesday

**Class Time:** 1:00 - 2:15 pm

**Duration:** 2.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** This course will examine World History by regions of the globe, encompassing six geographical regions (North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Russia/Central Asia, and Oceania), how geography affects the history of the regions, history of the main countries of the region through modern times and the cultures of said regions and countries.

Maps and research will dominate our studies but will be supplemented by the historic literature of the area and study of important players on the national and regional stage, as well as the interactions of the individual regions with each other and the world as a whole.

Reading for this course includes a textbook and a course reader with brief excerpts from texts such as: The Epic of Gilgamesh, Homer's Odyssey, Virgil's Aeneid, Sun Tzu's the Art of War, as well as writings by prominent authors and historians of the regions studied.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-2 hour per week.

**Class Materials:** 3-ring binder devoted to this class only (1/2 inch)  
Notebook or paper (or laptop or tablet) for note-taking  
Pens/pencils  
Students also need access to a current atlas or the Internet for completing assignments. For example: National Geographic Student World Atlas, 4th edition, ISBN-13: 978-1-426-317751

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$1106.25 is due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$122.92. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$122.92 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

## Middle School US History

**Teacher:** Gaspar Escobar

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8

**Class Schedule:** Monday/Wednesday

**Class Time:** 1:00 – 2:15 pm

**Duration:** 2.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** This class will delve into the pre-history of the United States, its early formation, nascent nation-building, and its rise to a global superpower. We will concentrate on the people and places that shaped the nation, as well as events that guided the social, political, and geographical culmination of the nation we live in today. There will be constant discussion and debate of the events and people to better ground the students in the specifics of what the United States is founded on and how the idea of "America has changed over the years.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-2 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** Pens/pencils  
Notebooks or paper (or laptop or tablet) for note taking

**Textbook:** History of the United States by Howard Zinn

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$885.00 is due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$98.34. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$98.34 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.

---

## Texas History

**Teacher:** Mary Kimble-Hellen

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8

**Class Schedule:** Monday Only

**Class Time:** 11:00 – 12:15 pm

**Duration:** 1.25 hours per week, 32 wks

**Description:** The story of Texas is expansive, heroic, colorful, dramatic, electrifying, tragic, consequential, and noble. The list of adjectives is never-ending. Join us as we explore, historical facts, but also data interpretation, geographic diversities, and cultural heritage from Texas' ancient origins to the 21st century. Plenty of hands-on activities, supplemental websites, videos, biographical profiles, and field trip suggestions help bring to life and personalize students' experiences as they discover the rich history of this great state.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-2 hours per week.

**Class Materials:**

Bound composition book  
Colored pencils, pens, pencils  
Notebook paper

**Textbook:** Celebrating Texas: Honoring the Past, Building the Future; McDougal Littell; (Grades 6-8, Student Edition); ISBN-10: 0-0-618-15512-0 ISBN-13: 978-0-618-15512-5. Published by: McDougal Littell, Hardcover, 736 pages

**Caution:** Be careful to order the right textbook. Several books on the market have the title Celebrating Texas. Check the ISBN-13 number for the correct one! New and used textbooks are available online or at Home Educator's Resource in Lewisville.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$675.00 is due at time of registration.
2. Two (2) installments.
3. Four (4) installments.
4. Nine (9) monthly payments of \$78.96. The first monthly tuition payment is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$78.96 will begin the month following the month you registered and will continue until all additional eight (8) payments are collected.