



Social Studies

Mount Madonna School is committed to preparing students to have an exceptional understanding of the historical, political, and cultural context of their place in the world. Our social studies program prepares our students to be active participants in their community at all levels. The program focuses on producing global citizens capable of discernment and effective civic action. During middle school, students study the ancient world, medieval and renaissance times, and US History. High School students study World History, Government, and US History. They also complete a two-year capstone course in Values in American and World Thought which includes international and domestic travel. Students also take World Religions and can choose American Women's History senior year.

World History 6 and 7

In sixth and seventh grade, students learn about ancient cultures from all over the world, then progress to a focus on European History in seventh grade. Students begin with the Paleolithic era and end with the Renaissance in a two-year study of the history of the world. Lessons are presented in a hands-on, creative environment that includes projects, research, academic writing, and discussion. Specifically, students build their skills at both persuasive and narrative writing.

U.S. History 8

In eighth grade, students begin with the American Revolution and analyze history and events through the Civil War. A strong emphasis is placed on critical thinking, discussion, and persuasive writing. Students learn how to revise and edit their written work to prepare them for the demands of High School.

World History 9

This course gives students a balanced, comprehensive understanding of global history through practice in all forms of student literacy—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—and advancement of skills in notetaking, research and analysis of both primary and secondary sources, and geography. The course will trace themes in world history such as revolution, slavery, colonialism, nationalism, imperialism, industrialization, migrations, religion, economics, warfare, and globalization.

U.S. History 10 with AP Option

This course is a one-year chronological survey of U.S. History from the age of exploration to the present day. Students develop a balanced, comprehensive understanding of United States history through practice. Students are expected to leave the class with the ability to express ideas clearly in analytical and persuasive writing, incorporating the use of evidence. Students selecting the AP option will be eligible to take the College Board AP United States History Exam in the spring.

U.S. Government with AP Option (11th Grade)

All MMS Students revisit US History through the lens of Government in their junior year. Students also take Values in American and World Thought during junior year, which includes a Government-in-Action trip to Washington DC. Students in the AP option study Government with more depth, and are eligible to take the College Board AP U.S. Government Exam in the spring.

The course covers topics such as policymaking, political institutions and their functions, the evolution of civil rights and liberties in America, and how citizens in America organize and communicate around political interests.

American (U.S.) Women’s History (12th Grade) _____

This senior elective course is a survey of Women’s History from colonial times to the turn of the 21st century. Themes in the class include work, family, religion, sexuality, and politics. In addition to reading about the lives of women, the question of gender and how it has historically been defined according to class, race, religion, and other categories is covered. Current events are discussed in addition to chronological history.

World Religions (12th Grade) _____

In this course students explore seven religious traditions in a variety of ways. Students use the textbook, look at primary religious sources, explore art and music associated with each religious tradition and have first hand interactions with religious practitioners and traditions.

Values in American and World Thought I/II (11th/12th Grade)

“Values” is a Capstone course in Social Studies that spans 11th and 12th grades, and incorporates trips to Washington D.C., and South Africa or India. Students connect to leaders making a difference through face-to-face interviews in these locations, and prepare for the occasion by reading the interviewee’s books and studying their work in an analytical setting that includes reflective dialogue, journaling, presentations, and essay writing. Past interviewees include a wide range of people in the U.S, as well as Nobel Laureates F.W. de Klerk and Bishop Desmond Tutu. Students have interviewed the Dalai Lama and spent time with other schools and non-profit organizations around the world in the program. Curriculum materials include *A World of Ideas: Volumes I and II* by Bill Moyers. The aims of the “Values in American and World Thought” program are to develop capacities of self-awareness and to support an ongoing inquiry into the values that inform our actions and our life purpose. Students are expected to strengthen their ability to engage in positive and mutually beneficial relationships with each other and with their communities.

