

6th Grade Humanities U.S. History from 1812 to Present

Course Description: This course completes the 5th grade study of United States history focusing on the search for the good life in the community of American citizens from 1812 to present day. An emphasis is placed on examining primary source documents and telling the stories of the United States through key events and influential characters.

Course Question: How is the search for the good life seen in the history of the United States? How does a diverse nation pursue the good life and build the common good?

7th Grade Humanities The Origins of Western Culture

Course Description: Beginning with the origins of Western Culture and crossing into modern tales, students will explore man's search for the Ideal Type in the pursuit of virtue. Throughout history, how has the ideal, virtuous man been imagined as portrayed in gods, heroes, and fairy-tales? This class will examine how the good man was historically constructed and how each anticipates the "desire of nations": Jesus, God's Messiah. Students will be challenged to put themselves up against the Ideal Type and draw conclusions about who they are and who they want to be, taking the consequences of their thoughts, actions, and beliefs to a logical conclusion.

Course Question: What is a Good Man? What is virtue?

8th Grade Church History (*overseen by the Bible Department*)

Course Description: The purpose of this class is to discover the true person and work of Christ through a surveyed study of the history of the church from the age of the church fathers to the present day. This course follows our student's previous studies of the Old and New Testaments and will seek to understand how God's people have used the meditative study of His Word to shape and mold the church. Student's learning will focus on key persons in church history and their writings, the development of theology and church doctrines, and the different movements which have led to the development of the Protestant faith and its multiple denominations. Our hope is that students will see God's special love for his church, the body of his beloved son, and desire to be a faithful member in their local church.

Course Question: How do people of faith live in community? How is the search for a sincere faith played out in the community of the church, Europe, and America since the time of Christ?

9th Classical Humanities Greece and Rome

Course Description: Classical History examines the earliest stories of humanity. Primary focus will be placed on those written accounts which have come down to the modern age. The course will examine the centuries from the first recorded histories through the fall of the Roman Empire. The Biblical narratives of the Old and New Testaments will also be taken into account. At the heart of the inquiry lies an evaluation of how the Christian faith shapes a view of history. Most of the reading and writing done for the course will involve primary sources.

Course Question: What is a good man and what is a good society? Given what humans are like, how can we live together so humans can flourish?

10th European Humanities The Rise and Fall of Christian Europe

Course Description: The institution of the Catholic church encounters competing claims of truth and authority throughout the Christian era of Europe from Islam to pagan realms beyond, as well as from classical humanist ideals and modern scientific discoveries. The Church itself divides over theology and practice leading to the end of Christian dominance in Europe as secular powers develop new institutions which attempt to maintain peace and order among

men. Some of the greatest dichotomies of civilization arise from this turmoil: sacred vs. secular, faith vs. reason, and orthodox vs. heretic.

Course Question: How does society, the church, or an individual choose which authority to serve in order to live in peace with himself, others, and ultimately God?

11th American Humanities

Course Description: Students will examine the impetus behind European settlement in the Western Hemisphere. The establishment of the United States was marked by a diversity of people, interests, and concerns from the very beginning. Students will seek to understand whether Christianity and notions of human rights are compatible as a basis for human flourishing. Students will attempt to discover who is the “We” in the “We, the People,” and whether this can indeed be “One nation, under God.”

Course Question: How can a nation be built on Christian principles? Is a commitment to commonwealth and human rights compatible with Christian beliefs?

12th Summa Civitas_Political Theory

Course Description: This course will examine the development, through major works of philosophy and literature, of notions of humanity, community, and divine authority, and observe the consequences of these presuppositions. Students will begin to examine issues in the public square and identify presuppositions which contribute to just societies as they begin to develop their own capacity to critique social and political phenomena and develop an intellectually and spiritually defensible perspective as they pursue an area of particular interest. Students will be encouraged to incorporate this inquiry into their final rhetoric project for research and presentation to the school community.

Course Question: What form of community best cultivates human flourishing? How does an understanding of human identity and divine authority influence the decisions an individual might make as an adult in the modern world?