

# HISTORY OVERVIEW



WE

**WORLD EMPIRES** (*Davidson Explore Only*): this course introduces students to the basics of historical thinking and writing by exploring some of the world's greatest empires. Along with more recognizable empires such as the Romans, the Mongols, and the Russians, students will also explore Asian, African, and Middle Eastern civilizations, and examine the seldom heard voices that kept the engines of empires churning. Each week, the students will explore primary and secondary documents, complete writing assignments, and prepare for live sessions.

EC

**EARLY CIVILIZATIONS:** a middle school class focused on thinking and writing like an historian; learning history from the first humans through the 1400s; exploring foundations and making connections between past and present; and developing skills in note-taking, communicating, and researching. Historians learn to analyze primary and secondary sources and write unbiasedly about the past, keeping historical context in mind.

**DAVIDSON  
EXPLORE**

Davidson Explore (DE) courses are offered through the Davidson Institute for Talent Development and not by the Davidson Academy. They are often taught by Davidson Academy staff.

## PLACEMENT IN HISTORY

Placement is determined by a combination of content knowledge, critical reasoning skills, close reading skills, and analytical writing skills. Maturity and discussion skills also play a role in placement. Some DAO students might end up sitting out of history for a year while their thinking, reading, and writing skills improve in their English courses. We encourage students to delay registration in History of the US until they are signed up for American Literature, but this alignment is no longer required as long as thinking and writing skills align with the class. Teachers will make recommendations during the diagnostic period.

MH

**PATTERNS IN MODERN HISTORY:** a middle school course focused on examining modernity and globalization, learning world history from roughly the Renaissance to the late 20th century, analyzing the benefits and consequences of modern values, and developing skills in expression and research. *(If taken as a ninth grader by age, this course counts as a high school world history credit.)*

CS

**CYBER SOCIETY:** This course focuses on the ways in which technology is advancing rapidly and connecting us in ways never before imagined. Through studying law, ethics, terrorism, communications, and business as they pertain to cyberspace, students work to improve critical thinking and critical reading skills by pulling information from articles and other sources. Students will develop presentation skills as they participate in debates, discussions, and group presentations.

H

**HISTORY OF THE US:** a high school course taking a critical look at US history from pre-European contact through Reconstruction. Students will examine the myths that structure popular understandings of US history and the values, philosophies, and political debates that shaped colonial society, launched the American Revolution, informed the Constitution and Bill of Rights, rationalized westward expansion, catalyzed the Civil War, and led to the ratification of the 13th – 15th Amendments. Class counts as the US history credit.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORY

- One credit US History
- One credit US Government
- One credit World History

AG

**PRINCIPLES IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:** although we give a history credit for the prior course and a government credit for this course, these two classes combined are a full overview of post-Reconstruction US history and government. The fall semester picks up where History of the US left off, covering US history from the Gilded Age through the early 21st century. The spring semester is devoted to studying the history and practice of American government. The students will examine social change, resistance, rebellion, privilege, and policy.

AS

**ASIAN STUDIES:** helping build the needed historical background and basic terminology for understanding East Asia in light of the globalization of today's world. Readings on historical events of China, Japan, and the Koreas will be synchronized with the study of arts, films, and the analysis of primary documents. Class counts as a world history credit.



### HOW HISTORY IS TAUGHT AT DAO

Our history classes are designed to promote an understanding of the connections between historical events, eras, peoples, doctrines, wars, movements, religions, technologies, climates, values, and leaders. Rather than memorizing names and dates, students are asked to critically consider the past; to investigate a variety of documents (primary and secondary texts, art, film, speeches, archeological finds, letters, etc.); to assess perspective and bias; to connect past and present, pulling together information in a way that offers insights about and deeper understandings of our world; and to consider history and the present from a variety of humanities and social sciences perspectives (including anthropology, cultural studies, geography, media studies, political science, sociology, etc.).