The Social Studies program at Harrison High School prepares students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become ready for college, career, and civic life. Four units of Social Studies are required for graduation. Students are required to take Global History and Geography (two units of credit) in 9th and 10th grades, U.S. History and Government (one unit of credit) in 11th grade, and Economics and Economic Decision-Making (one-half unit of credit) and Law and Government (one-half unit of credit) in 12th grade. All students will take Regents examinations at the end of 10th grade in Global History and Geography and at the end of 11th grade in U.S. History and Government. These required courses reflect the content and intellectual skills described in New York State's five social studies learning standards: history of the United States and New York; world history; geography; economics; and civics, citizenship, and government. Students may qualify to receive Advanced Placement credit by enrolling in Advanced Placement World History to replace Global History and Geography in 10th grade. Students may also qualify to become an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate by enrolling in IB History HL Year 1: History of the Americas to replace U.S. History and Government in 11th grade. In addition to the required courses, students may enroll in electives. Electives, however, do not replace the four required courses unless an equivalent International Baccalaureate course is offered in that subject area. These electives are designed to meet a variety of interests and goals.
Global History and Geography is a two-year sequence that students take during their 9th and 10th grade years which culminates in a Regents examination at the end of 10th grade. All ninth grade students take Global History and Geography 9. Students will focus on the five social studies standards, common themes that recur across time and place (e.g., change, diversity, and nationalism), and historical eras including the foundations of Ancient Civilizations through the Enlightenment Period, 1750. The course is taught chronologically and focuses on exploring historical and cultural differences and similarities between different regions of the world during the same period. The course will challenge students’ reading, writing, and communication skills in order to prepare students for success in selecting the option of AP World History in 10th grade. Students are required to take the Regents Global History and Geography exam at the end of 10th grade.

This one-year AP course in World History corresponds with the second of a two-year sequence in Global History and Geography. The course is offered to advanced and ambitious students who seek to further challenge themselves. The course includes the study of World History from the late 18th century through modern times. Students will develop a greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in interaction with differing types of world societies. College credit may be granted if an adequate grade is received on the College Board Advanced Placement examination. Students are required to take the AP World History Exam in May and the Regents Global History and Geography exam in June of 10th grade.

United States History and Government is a one-year course that students take in the 11th grade. Students will focus on the five social studies standards integrated throughout the study of the nation’s history. Students will develop an understanding of American geography, the Constitutional foundations for our government and legal system, and the history of the United States chronologically from the late colonial period through the present day. A variety of skills are emphasized, including analysis, evaluation, research, and an understanding of different historical resources in order to prepare students for success in selecting the option of IB social studies during 12th grade. Students are required to take the Regents United States History and government exam at the end of 11th grade.

This is the first year of the two-year higher level IB History course. The course covers the major developments in the Americas (North and South America) from around 1760 to 2000. In addition to New York State’s Regents curriculum, the course will focus on three topics in the history of the Americas as an in-depth study. Some examples include: independence movements, the United States Civil War, the Great Depression and the Americas 1929-39, and civil rights and social movements in the Americas. The course emphasizes political, social and cultural history with an emphasis on reading, writing, and research using primary and secondary sources. Students will also conduct a historical investigation of a topic of their choosing in which they develop and pursue their own research question. This course is offered to advanced and ambitious students who seek to further challenge themselves. These students may or may not be pursuing an IB Diploma. Previous experience in an AP course is not required. In order to receive the IB HL credit, students must also complete the second year of this course, 20th Century World History, in their senior year. College credit may be granted if an adequate grade is received on the IB assessments concluded in their senior year. Students will also be required to take the Regents United States History and Government exam.

This half-year course will fulfill the New York State requirement for participation in government. The Law and Government curriculum is designed to be a culminating course of study that focuses on NYS Social Studies Learning Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship, and Government. Upon entering 12th
grade, students should be ready to synthesize and apply this content-rich experience to the study of contemporary and historic public issues, and to increase their awareness of rights and responsibilities as a citizen. The curriculum is designed to engage students in defining, analyzing, monitoring, and discussing public policies and issues that are relevant to individual students.

**ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING**

*Course No.: 242 Grades Offered: 12 Credit: 0.5 (Semester) Examination: School Exam*

This half-year course will fulfill the New York State requirement for economics. The Economics and Economic Decision-Making curriculum is designed to be a culminating course of study that focuses on NYS Social Studies Learning Standard 4: Economics. Upon entering 12th grade, students should be ready to learn the knowledge and skills that will enable them to function as informed and economically literate citizens in our society and in the world. The course emphasizes rational decision-making and encourages students to become wise consumers as well as more productive citizens. Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of how the United States and other societies develop economic systems and associated institutions to allocate scarce resources, how major decision-making units function in the U.S. and other national economies, and how an economy solves the scarcity problem through market and nonmarket mechanisms.

**IB ECONOMICS SL**

*Course No.: 260 Grades Offered: 12 Credit: 1.0 Examination: IB Assessments*

This one-year economics course provides students with a core knowledge of economics, encourages students to think critically about economics, promotes an awareness and understanding of internationalism in economics, and encourages students’ development as independent learners. Alongside the empirical observations of positive economics, students of the subject are asked to formulate normative ques-

**IB HISTORY HL YEAR 2: 20TH CENTURY WORLD HISTORY**

*Course No.: 237 Grades Offered: 12 Credit: 1.0 Examination: IB Assessments*

This course is the second year of the two-year IB higher level course. Students will study three topics/themes in 20th century world history in-depth. Some examples of these topics/themes are: peacemaking, peacekeeping - international relations 1918-36, the causes, practices and effects of wars, democratic states - challenges and responses, and origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states. Students will be required to take the IB assessments in the spring. This course will satisfy the Economics and Government requirement for graduation.

**IB PSYCHOLOGY SL/HL**

*Course No.: 261 (SL) 263 (HL) Grades Offered: 11-12 Credit: 1.0 Examination: IB Assessments*

The standard level psychology course develops an awareness of how research findings can be applied to better understand human behavior and how ethical practices are upheld in psychological inquiry. Students learn to understand the biological, cognitive and socio-cultural influences on human behavior and explore alternative explanations of behavior. They also understand and use diverse methods of psychological inquiry. Students will be required to take the IB assessments in the spring. This course may be taken during 11th or 12th grade as an elective. Students wishing to take Psychology HL would remain in the course for an additional year and will engage in a qualitative research, as well as be required to complete the IB Year 2 assessments in their senior year.

**IB PSYCHOLOGY HL YEAR 2**

*Course No.: 263 (HL) Grades Offered: 12 Credit: 1.0 Examination: IB Assessments*

This course is the second year of the two-year IB higher level course in psychology. The higher level psychology Year 2 course aims to develop an awareness of how research findings can be applied to better understand human behavior and how ethical practices are upheld in psychological inquiry. Students learn to understand the biological, cognitive and socio-cultural influences on human behavior and explore alternative explanations of behavior. They also understand and use diverse methods of psychological inquiry. Students will be required to take the IB assessments in the spring.