

Center for Law and Global Policy Development

Contact Information:

Academic Dean for Innovation: Julie Painter
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Lead Teacher: Meg Huggins
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The Center for Law and Global Policy Development at River Bluff High School features a curriculum developed closely with area international policy and legal professionals to ensure that students' experiences are grounded in an understanding of the process involved in the creation of public policy, as well as the practical application of law. This curriculum is built around case studies involving social, environmental and economic issues impacting citizens on the local, national and international levels. In addition, students learn how to apply the technological skills needed to navigate the professional needs of policy creation/implementation and legal research/practice. The Center for Law and Global Policy Development has as its focus the understanding that public service is the aim of policy and legal professions.

Recommendation: Students applying to the Center are recommended to have completed one World Language credit before entering the freshman year. The Center is open to all juniors and seniors in Lexington One. Students will spend a half-day within the Center each semester.

Center Completer Requirements

AP US History—1 unit

US History Extension HN—1 unit

Current Controversies &

International Relations HN—1 unit

Law & Justice—1 unit

AP American Government—1 unit

Global Policy HN— 1 unit

Legal and Policy Debate HN—1 unit

Law and Policy Practicum HN—1 unit

Suggested Course Sequence

Freshman Year

English: English 1 HN/CP or 2 HN/CP

Math: Algebra 1 or 2 HN/CP

Science: Biology 1 HN/CP

Social Studies: AP Human Geography

Physical Education 1

Computer Science Elective or Fine Arts
Elective

Leadership 21 and Personal Health &
Wellness

World Language

Sophomore Year

English: English 2 HN/CP or 3 HN/CP

Math: AP Statistics or P/S CP
or Geometry HN/CP

Science: Chemistry HN/CP

Social Studies: AP World History

World Language

Fine Arts Elective and two additional
electives

Junior Year

English: English 3 CP or 4 AP/CP

Math: Pre-Calculus HN/CP

Science: Physics HN/CP

World Language

Social Studies & Center Courses:

US History AP

US History Extension Honors

Current Controversies and International
Relations

Law & Justice

Senior Year

English: English 4 CP or 5 AP

Math: Calculus AP/CP

Science: AP Environmental Science

AP Macroeconomics and/or AP
Microeconomics

Center Courses:

AP American Government

Global Policy Honors

Legal and Policy Debate

Law and Policy Practicum

11th Grade

AP US History (focus on Law & Policy) 337250AW
Grade 11 1 unit

Requirements: Students take the Advanced Placement U.S. History Exam. The S.C. End-of-Course Examination program requires students taking this course to take the U.S. History End-of-Course Test, summer reading/assignment.

This course provides students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in college introductory United States history courses. Students examine major historical developments from the age of discovery to the present. This course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with problems and materials in United States history. Emphasis is placed on analyzing historical data, synthesizing evidence and evaluating the ideas of others as students develop the ability to express themselves with clarity and precision when writing essays. The College Board determines the course description; therefore, the content of this course must adhere to those requirements. This course is linked to a required one-unit honors course.

U.S. History Extension Honors 337201HW
Grade 11 1 unit

This course is a required link to Advanced Placement US History and is only open to those students enrolled in that course.

Current Controversies & International Relations Honors 339932HW
Grade 11 1 unit

Students in this Center are challenged to think globally while fostering an understanding of the United States' position in the world. This course focuses on the principal forces and factors influencing world affairs, with an emphasis on the role the United States plays in issues such as: human rights, economics, terrorism, the environment, and drug trafficking. Students create portfolios based on international relations topics that can be used and built upon in subsequent Center Courses.

Law & Justice Honors 339933HW
Grade 11 1 unit

In this course, which uses the methodology of project-based learning, students take the role of attorneys at a law firm, who must recommend whether or not to take a case that is going to the Supreme Court. Students review the facts of the case, consider pro and con sides of the issue, and analyze the potential effects of precedents established by the courts. Students learn the balance needed between individual rights and the public good, the need for an independent judiciary, the rule of law, the concept of judicial review, and the principle that the bill of rights limits the power of the Federal Government.

12th Grade

AP American Government 337300AW
Grade 12 1 unit

Requirement: Students take the Advanced Placement American Government Exam, summer reading/assignment

This course provides students with a comprehensive critical perspective on American government and politics. Students develop analytic perspectives for interpreting, understanding and explaining political events in this country. The course provides students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory U.S. government and politics courses. The College Board determines the course description; therefore, the content of this course must adhere to those requirements. This course is linked to a required half unit honors course.

Global Policy Honors 339934HW
Grade 12 1 unit

To remain competitive in a global society, students need to understand how global issues affect their own country and local community. This seminar-based course uses case studies to research the role of global policy in addressing problems and challenges that face the world (poverty, conflict, injustice, and inequality). Students create policy solutions based on their research, culminating in presentations and debate focused on the proposed solutions.

Legal and Policy Debate Honors 339935HW
Grade 12 1 unit

The ability to persuade others through effective argumentation is a critical skill to master in the development of effective leadership. In this course, students develop an understanding of both the criminal and civil trial processes, from mediation to mock trial, as they assume the various roles played by the participants in the court system. Students also become well versed in a wide range of policy topics through resources such as Project Citizen (Center for Civic Education) and the study of sociology, foreign affairs, economic policy, and domestic politics. Students work on important skills, such as public speaking, critical thinking, negotiation, communication, debating, and team building.

Law and Policy Practicum Honors 339936HW
Grade 12 1 unit

In this capstone course, students have the opportunity to increase their knowledge of substantive areas of law and policy by gaining firsthand exposure to careers in these areas through shadowing experiences, externships/internships, and guest speakers. Students create portfolios centered on their individual interests in these areas that contain case studies, research and a drafted policy proposal, which students will defend to an expert panel.

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