

**District 211 Course Syllabus and Description**

*Prerequisite: a 4 or 5 on the AP exam for at least 2 of the following: G369 AP US History, G339 AP World History, G349 AP Human Geography, G479 AP US Government, G359 AP European History.*

G478 is a semester-long honors social studies course offered by District 211 tailored to educate motivated students about the culture of Macedonia, a diverse and unique region in the Balkans. The course is divided into two sections: Fundamentals and Foci.

The former includes a cultural inquiry involving Macedonian History, Government, and Geography. The latter leverages this knowledge by focusing on its translation into real traditions: The Struga Poetry Festival (for which students will create a written poem) and Macedonian Folk Dance (for which students will perform a themed dance).

This course places significant weight on the application of content (70%) rather than the content itself (30%), which is why it is an excellent option for students seeking critical thinking and high-level contextualization skills.

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**G478 Topics of Study**

- Fundamental: History of Macedonia .....
  - Fundamental: Geography of Macedonia .....
  - Fundamental: Government of Macedonia .....
  - Focus: Struga Poetry Festival .....
  - Focus: Macedonian Folk Dance .....
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**Fundamental: History of Macedonia**

Weight: 10% (2-3 weeks)

Key Topics:

- Byzantine Empire
- Christening of the Slavics
- Macedonian (South Slavic) Language
- Cyrillic Alphabet

- Conquests of Alexander the Great

## **Fundamental: Geography of Macedonia**

Weight: 10% (2-3 weeks)

Key Topics:

- Lakes (Orhid, Prespa, Dojran)
- Borders (Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Serbia)
- Capital (Skopje)
- Mountains (Galičica, Kajmakčalan, Titov Vrv)

## **Fundamental: Government of Macedonia**

Weight: 10% (1-2 weeks)

Key Topics:

- Constitution
- Human Rights
- LGBT Rights
- Presidency
- Prime Ministership
- Nationality Law

## **Focus: Struga Poetry Festival**

Weight: 35% (4-6 weeks)

Objectives:

1. MCS.4.i Understand and describe the diversity in the Struga Poetry Festival
2. MCS.4.ii Recognize the impact of Macedonian History, Geography, and Government on the brand of art in the Struga Poetry Festival
3. MCS.4.iii Produce pieces in the style of the Struga Poetry Festival

Final Project: To achieve MCS.4.iii, students will write their own collection of poems incorporating various facets of Macedonian culture (50% of unit score).

## **Focus: Macedonian Folk Dance**

Weight: 35% (4-6 weeks)

Objectives:

1. MCS.5.i Recognize the impact of Macedonian History, Geography, and Government on the brand of art in Macedonian Folk Dance
2. MCS.5.ii Produce pieces in the style of Macedonian Folk Dance

Final Project: To achieve MCS.4.ii, students will incorporate their knowledge of Macedonian culture in creating a group (7-9 students) dance, which will be presented to the class (75% of unit score).