The social sciences are unique in that they encompass many different academic disciplines.

- A course covering the overall history of California is needed. Courses focusing on one specific geographical area of California such as the History of San Francisco are acceptable as electives only. They will not satisfy the history of California requirement.
- World history courses are non-United States or region courses. This would include courses such as the history of Greece, Soviet Union, China, or England.
- World civilization or world culture may include courses in ancient civilizations such as Greek, Roman, Egypt or India.
- A western civilization course may be used either for the world history or world civilization/culture requirement, but may not be used for both areas.

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