



# Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Honors US History II - Last Updated on April 3, 2025

## DESCRIPTION

### K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement

- Social Studies prepares the nation’s young people for college, careers, and civic life.
- Inquiry is at the heart of social studies instruction which involves interdisciplinary applications, deep understandings, concepts, and skills from the disciplines.
- Young people require analytic, strategic, chronological, and critical thinking skills to prepare for participating in democratic decision-making.
- Social studies instruction directly and explicitly connects to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

### Course Description

Honors U.S. History II is an advanced, in-depth exploration of American history, designed for high-achieving students who have demonstrated strong academic skills and a passion for learning. The course spans key historical events and trends from the Civil War to the Great Depression, emphasizing analytical thinking and primary source analysis. Students will engage in rigorous assignments, including document-based questions (DBQs), historical essays, and simulations, all while developing advanced research and writing skills aligned with College Board standards. The course encourages intellectual curiosity and critical thinking, providing a deep dive into the political, social, and economic forces that shaped modern America.

Key topics include the causes and effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction, the rise of industry and technology, the challenges faced by farmers and laborers during the Gilded Age, and the rise of the U.S. as a global power in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Students will also analyze the social and economic impacts of the 1920s, the Great Depression, and the New Deal. In addition to classroom instruction, students will be expected to complete extensive out-of-classwork, including a summer reading assignment. This course is ideal for students seeking a challenging and comprehensive understanding of U.S. history, preparing them for future academic success in history and social sciences.

## STANDARDS

### Pennsylvania - High School - Civics and Government - US History

5.1.U.A. 5.1.U.C. 5.1.U.D. 5.1.U.F. 5.2.U.A. 5.2.U.B. 5.2.U.C. 5.2.U.D.

5.3.U.D. 5.3.U.F. 5.4.U.A.

### Pennsylvania - High School - Economics - US History

6.1.U.A. 6.1.U.B. 6.1.U.C. 6.2.U.A. 6.2.U.C. 6.2.U.D. 6.2.U.E. 6.2.U.F.



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6.2.U.G.

6.3.U.B.

6.3.U.C.

6.4.U.A.

6.3.U.D.

6.4.U.C.

6.4.U.D.

6.5.U.E.

6.5.U.F.

## Pennsylvania - High School - Geography - US History

7.1.U.A.

7.2.U.A.

7.2.U.B.

7.3.U.A.

7.4.U.A.

7.4.U.B.

## Pennsylvania - Grade 9-12 - History - US History

8.1.U.A

8.1.U.B

8.1.U.C

8.3.U.A

8.3.U.B

8.3.U.C

8.3.U.D

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Objectives for this course are aligned to Pennsylvania Standards in History, Civics and Government, Economics, and Geography.

### ASSESSMENT TYPES

The following assessment types will be used during the course:

- Curriculum-based Measures
- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

### SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Below is a list of suggested strategies for high-quality instruction in Social Studies:

- Instructional components outlined in the *Framework for Teaching*
- Lecture/discussion
- Directed research
- Demonstrations
- Inquiry-based instruction

### RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
Boyer, Paul. <i>The American Nation</i> . Austin, TX: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1995.		