



# Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | World Cultures - 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

Academic World Cultures is a semester-long course designed for high school sophomores to explore the rich diversity of global cultures and their interactions with Western traditions. This course examines the history, geography, political science, economics, and societal structures of major cultural regions, including Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, Europe, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania, and Latin America. Students will study the language, traditions, and customs of these areas, with a focus on the impact of colonialism, nationalism, globalization, and imperialism. Through projects and analysis, students will explore the unique individuals and events that have shaped global societies and their cultural identities.

Throughout the course, students will develop skills in identifying key geographic features, comparing cultural and religious practices, and evaluating the effects of historical events on contemporary societies. Key topics include the effects of European colonialism on Africa, the spread of Islam, the rise and fall of empires, the impact of the Silk Road, and the cultural and political revolutions in Europe and Asia. Students will also investigate the historical development of modern South Asia, Latin American revolutions, and the changing dynamics of Southeast Asia and Oceania. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to analyze and understand global interdependence and its complex social, economic, and political challenges. This 90-minute course is a graduation requirement for sophomores.

## STANDARDS

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

5.1.W.B.

5.1.W.F.

5.2.W.A.

5.2.W.B.

5.2.W.D.

5.3.W.J.

5.4.W.C.

### Pennsylvania - High School - Economics - World History

6.1.W.A.

6.1.W.B.

6.1.W.C.

6.2.W.A.

6.2.W.C.

6.2.W.D.

6.2.W.E.

6.2.W.F.



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6.2.W.G.

6.3.W.B.

6.3.W.D.

6.4.W.A.

6.4.W.B.

6.4.W.C.

6.4.W.D.

6.5.W.E.

## Pennsylvania - High School - Geography - World History

7.1.W.A.

7.2.W.A.

7.2.W.B.

7.3.W.A.

7.4.W.A.

7.4.W.B.

### 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
Textbook: Geography, Holt McDougal (2012)	South Africa & the Anti-Apartheid Movement (DVD) Inside Mecca (DVD) Armenian Genocide (DVD) China's Century of Revolution (DVD) Tank Man (DVD) India (DVD) Killing Fields (DVD) Egalite for All (DVD)	