Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Honors 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

Honors World Cultures is an advanced, reading and writing-intensive course designed for students who have demonstrated strong academic habits, particularly in their previous history coursework. This course offers an in-depth exploration of the world's diverse cultural regions through the lenses of history, geography, economics, and political science. Students will analyze primary sources to examine global societies, develop research skills through an MLA-based project, and participate in simulations and seminars. The course encourages critical thinking about how various cultures interact and how historical events have shaped our modern world, preparing students for the complex global issues they will encounter in the future.

The course is structured around eight thematic units that cover Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Southwest Asia, Central Asia, Europe, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, Oceania, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Students will examine the geography, historical developments, and cultural dynamics of each region, focusing on topics such as nationalism, imperialism, globalization, and the role of religion and philosophy. The curriculum also includes extensive study of historical events like the Arab Spring, the rise of the Ottoman Empire, and the impact of European colonialism. By the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of the world's cultures and the ongoing challenges facing global societies. This course serves as an alternative to CP World Cultures and is ideal for students seeking a more rigorous and comprehensive study of world cultures.

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grade 9-12 - History - World History

8.1.W.A | 8.1.W.B | 8.1.W.C | 8.4.W.A | 8.4.W.B | 8.4.W.C | 8.4.W.D

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. 6.2.W.A. 6.2.W.C. 6.2.W.G. 6.3.W.B. 6.5.W.E. 6.4.W.D.

6.4.W.C. 6.4.W.B. 6.4.W.A. 6.3.W.D.

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
Globalization & Diversity. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. Anson, Edward. Civilization Primer. Wadsworth.	Diamond, Jared. Guns, Germs, & Steel. Standage, Tom. History of the World in Six Glasses.	