



Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Government & Economics - 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 American Government and Economics is a semester-long course designed for high school seniors, offering an in-depth exploration of both American government and economic systems. The course provides students with a foundational understanding of U.S. political structures, including the Constitution, federalism, and the role of various branches of government. Students will examine the processes behind lawmaking, the electoral system, the functions of Congress and the President, and the impact of judicial review through the Supreme Court. Additionally, the course explores the influence of political parties, media, and interest groups, along with the dynamics of political campaigns and public opinion.

In the economics portion, students will study key economic principles, such as supply and demand, scarcity, opportunity costs, and the role of incentives in decision-making. They will analyze different economic systems and explore topics like the federal budget, monetary policy, and international trade. The course also includes a focus on global relations, examining trade, foreign policy, and international economics, with students evaluating policy options and debating issues like comparative advantage and the impact of trade on consumers. Through this course, students will gain critical skills for understanding and engaging with both the U.S. political system and the global economy.

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 - 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.
- 6.2.U.G.
- 6.3.U.C.
- 6.3.U.B.
- 6.3.U.D.
- 6.4.U.A.
- 6.4.U.C.
- 6.4.U.D.
- 6.5.U.E.



Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Government & Economics - Last Updated on April 3, 2025

6.5.U.F.

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.

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
Clayton, Gary. Economics: Principles and Practices. New York: Glencoe, 1995. McGlenaghan, William A. Magruder's American Government. Needham, MA: Prentice Hall, 1997		