



Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Honors 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

Honors American Government and Economics is a rigorous, reading- and writing-intensive course designed for students who have demonstrated strong academic performance in their previous history classes. This course offers an in-depth exploration of both the theoretical foundations and practical applications of American democracy and the capitalist economic system, with a particular focus on how globalization influences U.S. political and economic policies. Students will engage in independent reading and research, developing a deep understanding of the challenges facing the global economy in the 21st century. The course includes individual and group projects, an MLA research paper, and a summer reading assignment.

Throughout the course, students will explore key topics including the philosophical roots of American democracy, the structure of government, and the roles of key political institutions such as Congress and the Presidency. In economics, they will study market systems, the principles of supply and demand, and the impact of government policies on the economy. Students will also analyze the influence of political parties, media, and special interest groups, as well as examine domestic and foreign policies affecting the U.S. economy. This course is designed for motivated and inquisitive students who are prepared for a challenging academic experience.

STANDARDS

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

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



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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.D.

5.2.U.C.

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



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RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
<p>Gerber, Mitchel. Sources: Notable Selections in American Government. 2nd ed. Guilford, CT: Dushkin, 1999.</p> <p>Mankiw, N. Gregory. Principles of Economics. 3rd. ed. Mason, OH: Thomson, 2004.</p> <p>McGlenaghan, William A. Magruder's American Government. Needham, MA: Prentice Hall, 2005.</p>	<p>Levitt, Steven D. and Dubner, Stephen J. Freakonomics: The Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything. New York: Harper, 2009.</p> <p>Matthews, Chris. Hardball. New York: Free, 1988.</p>	