



Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Contemporary World Issues - 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

This elective course offers students the opportunity to explore contemporary issues of national and international importance. Through a combination of reading, research, and critical analysis, students will examine the historical, geopolitical, and socio-economic contexts of issues such as government actions, global economies, military conflict, environmental challenges, world religions, and technological advancements. Each unit will help students develop essential skills in research, writing, civil discourse, and debate, allowing them to form and express their own informed opinions on each topic.

Throughout the semester, students will engage with a variety of sources, including authentic recorded interviews, news articles, and academic texts. They will practice interpreting different perspectives, synthesizing information, and presenting their findings through persuasive essays and debates. The course culminates in a final project that encourages students to apply their research and analytical skills. Designed for any student interested in current events, this 72-minute course provides a platform for developing a well-rounded understanding of the world today.

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grade 9-12 - History - US History

- 8.1.U.A
- 8.1.U.B
- 8.1.U.C
- 8.2.U.A
- 8.2.U.B
- 8.2.U.C
- 8.2.U.D
- 8.3.U.A
- 8.3.U.B
- 8.3.U.C
- 8.3.U.D

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



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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.
- 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.
- 6.5.U.F.

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.
- 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 - 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.

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



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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