



Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Honors United States History III - 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 course picks up where United States History II leaves off, guiding students through the major political, social, and economic developments from World War II to the early 21st century. With a global lens, students will examine America’s role in world affairs and its response to key events that defined the modern era—genocides, wars and conflicts, social reform movements, and the shifting landscape of American foreign policy. Through the study of totalitarian regimes, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Vietnam War, students will analyze how American democracy was tested and reshaped. Additional topics include the Watergate scandal, economic crises of the 1970s, the rise of conservatism in the 1980s, the fall of communism, and modern challenges such as terrorism and international diplomacy.

Students will develop historical thinking skills as they investigate causes and consequences of world events, examine primary and secondary sources, and organize information around key political, social, and cultural themes. Units are designed to foster critical thinking and empathy while encouraging civic engagement and global awareness. Students will evaluate the formation of dictatorships during the interwar years, trace the course and impact of World War II, and explore both foreign and domestic transformations during the Cold War. The course continues with in-depth studies of postwar civil rights movements, the counterculture era, economic shifts, and the transition of the U.S. into a post-Cold War global superpower. By the end of the course, students will have developed the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the complexities of today’s interconnected world and contribute thoughtfully as informed citizens.

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 - 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.



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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 - 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. 5.3.U.D.

5.3.U.F. 5.4.U.A. 5.2.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

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

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>Danzer, Gerald A. <i>The Americans – Reconstruction to the 21st Century</i>. Evanston, IL: McDougal Littell, 2003.</p> <p>Kinney, Tracety J., ed. <i>Conflict and Cooperation: Documents on Modern Global History</i>. New York: Oxford University, 2006.</p>	<p>Sereny, Gitta. <i>Into the Darkness</i>. New York: Vintage, 1983.</p> <p>Schneider, Helga. <i>Let Me Go</i>. New York: Walker, 2001.</p> <p>Weissman Klein, Gerda. <i>All But My Life</i>. New York: Hill & Wang, 1995.</p>	