



# Course Overview

High School | Social Studies | Introduction to Anthropology - 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

Introduction to Anthropology is a dynamic semester-long course designed for high school students (grades 9-12) to explore the fascinating study of humanity through time and across cultures. Students will be introduced to three of the four key subfields of anthropology: biological/physical anthropology, cultural anthropology, and archaeology. The course covers a wide range of topics including human evolution, genetic variations, primatology, past civilizations, and contemporary cultural practices. Through an engaging mix of lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities, students will deepen their understanding of how humans have evolved biologically, socially, and culturally. In place of a final exam, students will complete a culminating project that synthesizes their learning.

The course is divided into four units. In Unit 1, students will gain an overview of anthropology and its subfields, exploring the evolution of language and creating a list of slang terms used within their own teen subculture. Unit 2 focuses on cultural anthropology, where students will learn about the key elements of culture, conduct ethnographic research, and examine the advantages of life history in understanding cultures. In Unit 3, students will study archaeology, learning about excavation techniques, the reconstruction of past cultures, and the major prehistoric sites and artifacts across the globe. Finally, in Unit 4, students will dive into biological and physical anthropology, exploring the evolutionary relationships between humans and nonhuman primates, studying early hominin fossils, and examining the factors that shaped human migration and development. This course is designed to foster critical thinking, inquiry, and creativity, providing students with a deeper appreciation of the human experience across time and space.

## STANDARDS

### Pennsylvania - High School - Geography - World History

7.3.W.A.

7.4.W.A.

7.4.W.B.

### Pennsylvania - Grade 9-12 - History - World History



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8.4.W.A

8.4.W.B

8.4.W.C

8.4.W.D

8.1.W.A

8.1.W.B

8.1.W.C

### Pennsylvania - High School - Economics - World History

6.4.W.A.

6.4.W.B.

6.4.W.C.

6.4.W.D.

### Pennsylvania - Grade 10 - Environment and Ecology

4.1.10.A

4.1.10.E

4.4.10.B

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Objectives for this course are aligned to Pennsylvania Standards in History, Environment and Ecology, 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