



ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Contemporary Issues (10-12)

Courtesy · **P**ride · **P**erseverance · **C**ooperation

Chargers Promoting Positive Change

The mission of AHS is to prepare all students to reach their potential by teaching them the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary for academic, civic, and social success. Students will be college and career ready in the ever-changing technological world of the 21st century by meeting high expectations, engaging in authentic problem solving, and utilizing critical thinking.

Academic Expectations

- Apply critical thinking skills to solve problems
- Access, evaluate, apply, and communicate information and ideas through writing, speaking, and effective use of technology
- Read effectively for a variety of purposes
- Work independently, reflectively, and/or collaboratively to accomplish goals

Civic Expectation

- Demonstrate service to the school and community

Social Expectation

- Demonstrate respect for self, others, and property within our school community

Ansonia's Vision of a Graduate

Content Area: Social Studies	Course: Contemporary Issues
Vision of Graduate: • Communication & Collaborator • Critical Thinking • Life Long Learner • Responsible Citizen	Standards for Social Studies 1. Inquiry: Developing questions, conducting investigations, evaluating evidence, and communicating conclusions 2. History: Understanding change over time, multiple perspectives, evidence, and historical argumentation 3. Geography: Analyzing places, environments, populations, and global connections 4. Economics: Examining decision-making, markets, resources, and economic systems 5. Civics: Exploring institutions, civic participation, democratic processes, and the rule of law
Unit Titles	
Unit 1: Culture, Conflict and Change	
Unit 2: Political and Economic Systems	
Unit 3: Diversity and Human Rights	
Unit 4: Science, Technology and Society	
Unit 5: Civic Ideals and Practices	

Course Overview:
Contemporary Issues is an interdisciplinary social studies course that examines the complex political, economic, social, technological, and cultural challenges shaping the modern world. Through the study of current events and global issues, students will investigate how historical developments, governmental systems, economic policies, technological innovations, and human actions influence societies at the local, national, and international levels. Students will explore topics such as global conflict, foreign policy, economic systems, human rights, civic participation, technology, media influence, and the role of governments in addressing contemporary challenges. Emphasis is placed on analyzing multiple perspectives, evaluating evidence, recognizing bias, and

understanding the interconnected nature of an increasingly global society.

Throughout the course, students will engage in inquiry-based learning, research, discussion, debate, and problem-solving activities that require them to examine real-world issues from diverse viewpoints. Using primary and secondary sources, current events, data analysis, and multimedia resources, students will develop critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and civic reasoning skills. By evaluating the causes and consequences of contemporary issues and proposing evidence-based solutions, students will become informed citizens who are prepared to participate thoughtfully and responsibly in a rapidly changing world.

Unit 1: Culture, Conflict and Change

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
HIST 9-12.1 Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical context. HIST 9-12.4 Analyze complex and interacting factors that influenced the perspectives of people during different historical eras. HIST 9-12.12 Use questions generated about multiple historical sources to pursue further inquiry and investigate additional sources. GEO 9-12.4 Evaluate how political and economic decisions throughout time have influenced cultural and environmental characteristics of various places and regions.	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.6 Evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing claims, reasoning, and evidence. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
- Global conflicts and cultural interactions are shaped by historical events, political decisions, economic interests, and competing perspectives. - The modern world is interconnected, and decisions made by nations can have far-reaching impacts on cultures, economies, and international relationships. - Understanding contemporary global issues requires analyzing multiple perspectives, evaluating evidence, and recognizing bias in sources. - The United States plays a significant role in global affairs, and its foreign policy decisions influence international stability, security, and cooperation.	- What are the responsibilities of the United States in addressing global concerns? - How have political and economic decisions throughout history impacted the modern world? - How do culture, geography, and historical events contribute to conflict and cooperation among nations? - How can examining multiple perspectives deepen our understanding of global issues and conflicts?

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Skills (I will be able to...)	
• Analyze the causes and effects of global conflicts and change. • Evaluate how political, economic, and cultural factors shape global events. • Compare multiple perspectives on contemporary international issues. • Assess the credibility and bias of sources. • Gather and synthesize evidence from multiple sources. • Interpret maps, charts, and other forms of data. • Construct evidence-based arguments about global issues and U.S. foreign policy. • Communicate conclusions through written, oral, and multimedia formats.	

Unit 2: Political and Economic Systems

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
HIST 9-12.14 Analyze multiple and complex causes and effects of events in the past. GEO 9-12.4 Evaluate how political and economic decisions throughout time have influenced cultural and environmental characteristics of various places and regions. ECO 9-12.4 Analyze the role of comparative advantage in international trade of goods and services. ECO 9-12.5 Explain how current globalization trends and policies affect economic growth, labor markets, rights of citizens, the environment, and resource and income distribution in different nations.	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• Political and economic systems influence how societies distribute power, resources, and opportunities. • Globalization has increased the interconnectedness of nations, economies, and cultures, creating both opportunities and challenges. • Trade agreements, economic policies, and international partnerships shape global economic relationships and foreign policy decisions. • Governments and economic systems make decisions that affect citizens' quality of life, economic growth, and participation in the global economy.	• How do political and economic partnerships shape American foreign policy decisions? • What is the global economy and what role does the United States play in this relationship? • How do different political and economic systems impact citizens and societies? • To what extent does globalization benefit or challenge nations around the world?
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Skills (I will be able to...)

- Compare and evaluate different political and economic systems.
- Analyze how political and economic systems influence foreign policy decisions.
- Examine the role of globalization in shaping international relationships and economies.
- Evaluate the impact of trade agreements and international economic partnerships.
- Assess the credibility and bias of economic and political sources.
- Construct evidence-based arguments about globalization, trade, and foreign policy.

Unit 3: Diversity and Human Rights

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
HIST 9-12.1 Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts. HIST 9-12.7 Explain how the perspectives of people in the present shape interpretations of the past. HIST 9-12.16 Integrate evidence from multiple relevant historical sources and interpretations into a reasoned argument about the past. GEO 9-12.4 Evaluate how political and economic decisions throughout time have influenced cultural and environmental characteristics of various places and regions.	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.6 Evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing claims, reasoning, and evidence. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• Human rights are shaped by historical experiences, cultural values, political systems, and international agreements. • The protection of human rights varies across nations and often reflects differing beliefs about equality, freedom, and justice. • Historical and contemporary struggles for civil rights and human rights demonstrate the ongoing efforts of individuals and groups to achieve equality. • Understanding multiple perspectives is essential when evaluating issues related to diversity, immigration, discrimination, and human rights.	• What is a right and what rights should belong to every human being on Earth? • How does a global society decide on a universal set of human rights? • How have historical events shaped modern understandings of diversity and human rights? • What responsibilities do governments and international organizations have in protecting human rights?
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Skills (I will be able to...)

- Analyze how historical events have shaped perceptions of diversity and human rights.
- Evaluate multiple perspectives on issues related to human rights, immigration, and equality.
- Assess the credibility, bias, and reliability of primary and secondary sources.
- Examine how governments, organizations, and individuals have responded to human rights challenges.
- Compare the experiences of groups seeking equality and justice in different historical and contemporary contexts.
- Gather and synthesize evidence from multiple sources to investigate human rights issues.
- Construct evidence-based arguments about diversity, equality, and human rights.
- Communicate conclusions through written, oral, and multimedia formats.

Unit 4: Science, Technology and Society

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
GEO 9-12.5 Analyze the reciprocal nature of how historical events and the spatial diffusion of ideas, technologies, and cultural practices have influenced migration patterns and the distribution of the human population. HIST 9-12.4 Analyze complex and interacting factors that influenced the perspectives of people during different historical eras. GEO 9-12.4 Evaluate how political and economic decisions throughout time have influenced cultural and environmental characteristics of various places and regions. CIV 9-12.6 Evaluate public policies in terms of intended and unintended outcomes and related consequences.	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
- Scientific and technological advancements have transformed how people communicate, work, access information, and interact with the world. - Technological innovations often create both intended benefits and unintended social, political, economic, and environmental consequences. - Media, social media, and emerging technologies influence how individuals form opinions, access information, and participate in civic life. - Public policies play an important role in balancing innovation, individual rights, public safety, and environmental sustainability.	- How has technology changed the daily lives of humans? - What are the associated economic, social, environmental, and geopolitical costs and risks associated with energy production? - How do confirmation bias, stereotyping, and other cognitive biases impact how we interpret events, news, and information? - What responsibilities do governments, corporations, and individuals have in managing the impacts of technological change?
AHS Expectations	

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Skills (I will be able to...)

- Analyze how advances in science and technology have transformed societies and human interactions.
- Evaluate the social, political, economic, and environmental impacts of technological innovation.
- Assess the credibility, bias, and reliability of information from media, social media, and digital sources.
- Analyze how technology and social media influence public opinion, political participation, and decision-making.
- Examine the causes and consequences of environmental challenges associated with energy production and consumption.
- Interpret data, graphs, maps, and other visual representations related to technology, climate, and society.
- Evaluate the intended and unintended consequences of public policies related to science, technology, and the environment.
- Construct evidence-based arguments about the benefits, risks, and regulation of emerging technologies.

Unit 5: Civic Ideals and Practices

Priority Standards:	Supporting Standards:
CIV 9-12.1 Distinguish the powers and responsibilities of local, state, tribal, national, and international civic and political institutions. CIV 9-12.3 Analyze the impact of constitutions, laws, treaties, and international agreements on the maintenance of national and international order. CIV 9-12.8 Evaluate social and political systems in different contexts, times, and places that promote civic virtues and enact democratic principles. CIV 9-12.14 Analyze historical, contemporary, and emerging means of changing societies, promoting the common good, and protecting rights.	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.9 Integrate information from diverse primary and secondary sources into a coherent understanding of an idea or event. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1 Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
Big Ideas	Essential Questions
• Governments balance the protection of individual rights with the need to maintain security, order, and the common good. • Civic participation and informed decision-making are essential to preserving democratic principles and protecting rights. • Laws, constitutions, and public policies both reflect and shape the values of societies. • Different political systems distribute power and responsibilities in ways that influence citizens' rights, freedoms, and civic engagement	• How do laws both shape and reflect the characteristics and values of American society? • How do domestic policies and constitutional principles of the United States affect its relations with the world? • How should governments balance individual freedoms with the need for public safety and national security? • What responsibilities do citizens have in promoting the common good and protecting democratic principles?
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Skills (I will be able to...)

- Analyze how power and responsibilities are distributed among different levels of government.
- Evaluate the impact of laws, constitutions, treaties, and public policies on individuals and society.
- Compare and evaluate different political systems and their effectiveness in meeting the needs of citizens.
- Analyze the relationship between individual rights, civic responsibilities, and the common good.
- Assess multiple perspectives on contemporary civic and political issues.
- Gather and synthesize evidence from multiple sources to investigate public policy issues.
- Construct evidence-based arguments about rights, government responsibilities, and civic participation.
- Communicate conclusions through written, oral, and multimedia formats.