

# 12th Grade American Online School

## SOCIAL STUDIES/SCIENCES CURRICULUM

### Government, History, and Civic Engagement

Version Mar/2025

## 1. Introduction

### The Role of Social Studies in 12th Grade

In 12th grade, Social Studies focuses on advanced understanding of U.S. government, history, geography, and civic engagement. This curriculum prepares students to analyze historical events, understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and actively participate in government and society.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Understand the U.S. Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and key historical documents.
- ✓ Analyze the structure and functions of federal, state, and local governments.
- ✓ Explore U.S. and world history to see how past events influence the present.
- ✓ Develop civic responsibility and understand their role as active citizens.
- ✓ Examine major global and domestic social issues and government responses.

## 2. Core Competence Areas

### SoSCI.1 U.S. Government and the Constitution

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Understand the purpose and structure of the U.S. Constitution and its amendments.
- ✓ Analyze the three branches of government and the system of checks and balances.
- ✓ Explore the Bill of Rights and how it protects individual freedoms.
- ✓ Examine the role of state and local governments and their relationship with federal law.

#### Competencies

##### SoSCI.1.A.1 – Understanding the U.S. Constitution and key historical documents.

- Analyze the Preamble, Articles, and Amendments of the Constitution.
- Understand the significance of the Federalist Papers and their arguments for the Constitution.
- Compare the U.S. Constitution with other government systems worldwide.

##### SoSCI.1.A.2 – Understanding the three branches of government.

- Study the roles of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches.
- Examine how laws are made and interpreted at federal and state levels.
- Understand the impact of Supreme Court cases on American society.

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### SoSCI.2 U.S. and World History

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Analyze key events in U.S. history and their impact on modern America.
- ✓ Examine major world historical events and their global significance.
- ✓ Study the role of historical documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Federalist Papers.

## Competencies

### **SoSCI.2.A.1 – Understanding key events in U.S. history.**

- Study the American Revolution, Civil War, Reconstruction, and Civil Rights Movement.
- Analyze the causes and effects of the Great Depression and both World Wars.
- Explore how historical conflicts and policies shaped modern America.

### **SoSCI.2.A.2 – Exploring world history and global connections.**

- Examine major historical conflicts such as World War I, World War II, and the Cold War.
  - Understand how trade, migration, and cultural exchanges shaped civilizations.
  - Study the impact of colonialism, industrialization, and globalization.
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## **SoSCI.3 Geography and Global Awareness**

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Analyze the geographical features of the U.S. and the world.**
- ✓ **Understand how geography affects politics, economics, and culture.**
- ✓ **Use maps, geographic tools, and digital resources to analyze global issues.**

### **Competencies**

#### **SoSCI.3.A.1 – Learning about physical and political geography.**

- Identify major landforms, climate zones, and natural resources.
- Analyze the impact of geography on trade, urbanization, and political borders.
- Examine migration patterns and their historical causes.

#### **SoSCI.3.A.2 – Understanding global interdependence.**

- Study how international organizations (UN, NATO, WTO) influence world affairs.
- Explore global environmental issues such as climate change and deforestation.
- Analyze the economic and political connections between nations.

## **SoSCI.4 Civics, Citizenship, and Participation in Government**

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Understand the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.**
- ✓ **Learn how individuals can influence government through voting, petitions, and activism.**
- ✓ **Study the role of patriotism and civic engagement in a democracy.**

### **Competencies**

#### **SoSCI.4.A.1 – Engaging in civic responsibility and community service.**

- Learn the duties of citizenship, including voting and obeying laws.
- Explore the role of activism, social movements, and political participation.
- Analyze how civic engagement affects government policies.

#### **SoSCI.4.A.2 – Learning about voting and democracy.**

- Study how elections work at local, state, and federal levels.
- Understand the Electoral College and its role in presidential elections.
- Examine campaigns, political parties, and media influence on voters.

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## **SoSCI.5 Humanities and Social Issues**

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ **Analyze how art, literature, and philosophy influence society.**
- ✓ **Examine key social and political issues affecting the U.S. and the world.**
- ✓ **Discuss the role of patriotism and cultural identity in shaping perspectives.**

## Competencies

### **SoSCI.5.A.1 – Exploring the humanities and their impact.**

- Study historical and modern literature, music, and visual arts.
- Examine philosophical ideas that influenced political thought.
- Analyze the role of media and propaganda in shaping public opinion.

### **SoSCI.5.A.2 – Understanding modern social issues.**

- Discuss topics such as economic inequality, racial justice, and human rights.
  - Explore how technology and social media shape political discourse.
  - Debate current policy decisions and their long-term implications.
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## 3. Assessment and Evaluation

### **Formative Assessments – Checking Progress Through Interactive Learning**

- ✓ Class discussions, debates, and political simulations.
- ✓ Quizzes on historical events, government structures, and civic responsibilities.
- ✓ Analysis of political speeches, documents, and current events.

### **Summative Assessments – Final Projects and Exams**

- ✓ Essay on the role of government in society.
- ✓ Research paper on a major historical event or social movement.
- ✓ Final exam covering U.S. government, history, and civic engagement.

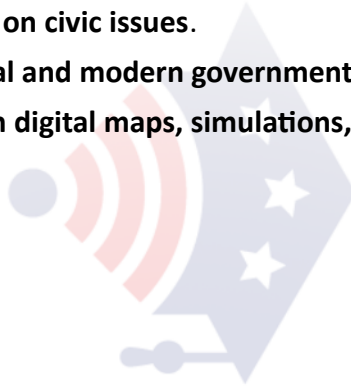
### **Authentic Assessment – Real-World Applications**

- ✓ Mock government simulation where students take on roles in government.
  - ✓ Community involvement projects that promote civic responsibility.
  - ✓ AI-driven assessments that personalize feedback on student understanding.
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## 4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

### Inquiry-Based and Technology-Integrated Learning

- ✓ Virtual town halls and debates on civic issues.
- ✓ Case studies analyzing historical and modern government decisions.
- ✓ Technology integration through digital maps, simulations, and media literacy exercises.



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