



BROWNELL TALBOT

Economics/Government Prioritized Standards

The scope and sequence of standards listed are from the NCSS (National Council of Social Studies). The NCSS standards guide teachers in providing students the content knowledge, intellectual skills, and civic values necessary for fulfilling the duties of citizenship in a participatory democracy. Links for AP U.S. and World History course standards are located at the bottom of this document.

Economics is a semester long course in which students will examine the social, cultural, political, and technological forces that shape the modern U.S. and global economies. Economics will look at microeconomic principles which deal with how the individual interacts with their local economy on a daily basis as both a producer of goods and services and as consumer of both those goods and services. This interaction will be studied as both a product of political policy and cultural influence. This course will also study various macro-economic principles that focus on how the decisions made by institutions like the governments and large corporations impact producers and consumers both nationally and globally (globalization) on both a daily basis and long-term.

U.S. Government is a senior level, one-semester introduction to the basic concepts of American government, the American political process, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. This course will begin with understanding the origins of our political system through the Enlightenment ideas of Locke and Rousseau, continuing with the culture of self-determination cultivated with the Mayflower Compact, and culminating with the creation of our Constitution after the American Revolution. The main goal of this course is to create more informed citizens who are prepared to experience the rights and responsibilities (voting, paying taxes, volunteering) that come from being a citizen of the United States.

Students will also learn how the American political and governmental systems were designed to slowly evolve as the people and culture of the U.S. changed through expansion and immigration. Yet, despite the evolution of America's political and governmental systems over time, ironically it's the continuity of certain aspects of these systems that have allowed for the U.S. to function effectively for over 200 years and has made the U.S. system the standard by which many modern nations states have sought to establish their governments.

CULTURE

- Understand how culture develops and changes in ways that allow human societies to address their needs and concerns
- Understand that behaviors, values, and beliefs of different cultures can lead to cooperation or pose barriers to cross-cultural understanding (an immigrant centric nation like the U.S. deals daily with positives and negatives of varied cultural influences on our political and economic machines).
- Understand that awareness and knowledge of other cultures is important in a connected society and an interdependent world
- Evaluate how data and experiences may be interpreted by people from diverse cultural perspectives and frames of reference
- Interpret patterns of behavior reflecting values and attitudes that contribute or pose obstacles to cross-cultural understanding
- Construct reasoned judgments about specific cultural responses to persistent human issues
- Analyze historic and current issues to determine the role that culture has played (Synthesis between past and present events. Black Codes v. Voter I.D. laws of today).
- Explain and apply ideas, theories, and modes of inquiry from anthropology, sociology, history, geography, and economics in the examination of persistent issues and social problems

TIME, CONTINUITY, & CHANGE

- Understand the importance of knowledge of the past to an understanding of the present and to informed decision-making about the future. (analysis of past and current issues and how they impact legislation and how people vote)
- Use historical facts, concepts, and methods to evaluate an issue of importance today, and make informed decisions as responsible citizens to propose policies, and take action on it

PEOPLE, PLACES, & ENVIRONMENTS

- Understand the social and economic effects of environmental changes and crises resulting from phenomena such as floods, storms, and drought
- Analyze different interpretations of the causes and effects of migrations of people in various times and places on the globe

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT & IDENTITY

- Understand concepts drawn from the behavioral sciences of psychology, sociology, and anthropology, such as: identity, development, personality, motivation, perception, and group membership (How does a group influence which political party we join?)
- Understand that complex and varied interactions among individuals, groups, cultures, and nations contribute to the dynamic nature of personal identity
- Understand the variety of factors that contribute to and harm the mental health of individuals
- Discuss the nature of stereotyping, bias, altruism, and conformity in societies, and their implications for personal, group, and national relationships. (People's political opinions and associations are formed by their interactions with society as a whole. This forms their stereotypes, biases, etc... and in-turn influences with whom they choose to associate (clubs, organization, political parties).
- Examine factors that shape mental health

INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, & INSTITUTIONS

- Understand this theme helps us use sociological and anthropological theories about how individuals are members of groups and institutions, and how they influence and shape those groups and institutions
- Understand concepts such as: mores, norms, ritual, status, role, socialization, ethnocentrism, cultural diffusion, competition, cooperation, conflict, assimilation, race, ethnicity, and gender
- Understand the influence of individuals, groups, and institutions on people and events in historical and contemporary settings
- Understand how the various forms of groups and institutions change over time (The continued evolution of our political party system and the political divisions of today)
- Understand the impact of tensions and examples of cooperation between individuals, groups, and institutions, with their different belief systems
- Understand how the beliefs of dominant groups tend to become norms in a society
- Understand how in democratic societies, legal protections are designed to protect the rights and beliefs of minority groups
- Understand how groups and institutions work to meet individual needs, and can promote the common good and address persistent social issues (The role of the public and private sectors in meeting the needs of Americans.)
- Ask and find answers to questions about the various forms that institutions take, their impact, the role of individuals within them, and how they change over time
- Analyze instances of tensions between individual expression and group conformity
- Understand examples of tensions between belief systems and governmental actions and policies
- Examine the belief systems of specific contemporary and historical movements that have caused them to advocate public policies
- Understand the role of institutions in furthering both continuity and change (The role of political parties in maintaining the two-party system, but ushering in legislation that has allowed our society to evolve)
- Investigate how groups and institutions work to meet individual needs, promote or fail to promote the common good, and address persistent social issues
- Gather information about groups and institutions using such tools as observations, surveys, and interviews

POWER, AUTHORITY, & GOVERNANCE

- Understand the need for respect for the rule of law, as well as a recognition of times when civil disobedience has been justified (Understanding the laws that govern our rights to civil disobedience and their origins)
- Understand fundamental principles of American constitutional democracy (including those of the U.S. Constitution, popular sovereignty, the rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, minority rights, the separation of church and state, and Federalism)
- Understand fundamental values of constitutional democracy (e.g., the common good, liberty, justice, equality, and individual dignity)
- Understand the ideologies, political cultures, structures, institutions, and processes of political systems that differ from those of the United States, and compare these with the political system of the United States.
- Understanding the social and cultural framework that guides the governments of other nations today and how those governments function in comparison to the government of the U.S.)
- Understand mechanisms by which governments meet the needs and wants of citizens, regulate territory, manage conflict, establish order and security, and balance competing conceptions of a just society
- Understand ideas, theories, and modes of inquiry drawn from political science
- Ask and find answers to questions about power, authority, and governance in the region, nation, and world
- Examine persistent issues involving the rights, responsibilities, roles, and status of individuals and groups in relation to the general welfare
- Compare and analyze the ways in which groups and nations respond to the richness of unity and diversity, as well as tensions and conflicts associated with unity and diversity (the impact of a diverse populace on political parties and legislation and how at times a nation is unified and at other times divided)
- Analyze and evaluate conditions, actions, and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation among groups and nations (Treaties, alliances, trade agreements)
- Evaluate the role of technology in communications, transportation, information processing, weapons development, and other areas as contributes to conflict and cooperation among groups and nations (Trade agreements and macro-economic concepts and role that modern technology has had on the global political and economic landscape)
- Evaluate the extent to which governments achieve their stated ideals and policies at home and abroad (Understanding the tools and processes by which the U.S. government undertakes its domestic and foreign policy)
- Apply modes of inquiry used in political science to research issues concerning power, authority, and governance

PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, & CONSUMPTION

- Understand scarcity and the uneven distribution of resources result in economic decisions, and foster consequences that may support cooperation or conflict (Scarcity is a main economic concept that contributes to much of our global political posture)
- Understand the causes and effects of inflation
- Understand entrepreneurial decisions are influenced by factors such as supply and demand, government regulatory policy, and the economic climate (Understanding the economic principle of entrepreneurship and the government regulatory agencies that promote and control business)
- Understand the roles of institutions that are designed to support and regulate the economy (e.g., the Federal Reserve, and the World Bank)
- Understand how factors such as changes in the market, levels of competition, and the rate of employment, cause changes in prices of goods and services
- Understand how interest rates rise and fall in order to maintain a balance between loans and amounts saved; How markets fail, and the government response to these failures
- Understand how markets fail, and the government response to these failures (What is a market and what fiscal and monetary policies does the government use?)
- Ask and find answers to questions about the production and distribution of goods and services in the state and nation, and in a global context
- Explain how monetary decisions at the national level (such as the Federal Reserve Bank in the United States) affect households, businesses, and governments
- Apply the concepts of marginal cost and marginal benefit to the analysis of social problems
- Analyze complex aspects of production, distribution, and consumption, and evaluate the market forces and government policies that affect these aspects
- Analyze how the trade off between risk and return is played out in the marketplace
- Compare and contrast market economies with other types of economies
- Evaluate the possible economic consequences of proposed government policies
- Gather and analyze data and use critical thinking in making recommendations for economic policies

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & SOCIETY

- Understand that the world is media saturated and technologically dependent
- Understand findings in science and advances in technology sometimes create ethical issues that test our standards and values (Do we pass legislation to regulate cloning of humans?)
- Understand the importance of the cultural contexts in which media are created and received
- Understand science, technology, and their consequences are unevenly available across the globe. (Global trade and globalization. The merits and drawbacks for all involved)
- Understand science and technology have contributed to making the world increasingly interdependent (Globalization and free-trade is a focus of macro-economic concepts)
- Understand developments in science and technology may help to address global issues
- Use diverse types of media technology to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and distribute messages
- Identify and analyze reactions to science and technology from the past or present, and predict ongoing effects in economic, geographical, social, political, and cultural areas of life
- Formulate possible solutions that utilize technology, address real-life issues and problems, weigh alternatives, and provide reasons for preferred choices and plans of action

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

- Understand global connections are rapidly accelerating across cultures and nations, and can have both positive and negative effects on nations and individuals (Free trade and globalization are key pieces to today's macro-economic concepts)
- Understand the solutions to global issues may involve individual decisions and actions, but also require national and international approaches (e.g., agreements, negotiations, policies, or laws) (Economic or Political alliances like NAFTA or the NATO)
- Understand the causes and consequences of various types of global connections
- Understand individuals, organizations, nations, and international entities can work to increase the positive effects of global connections, and address the negative impacts of global issues
- (The economic and political role of the U.S. in international organizations like NATO or the U.N.)
- Explain how language, belief systems, and other cultural elements can facilitate global understanding or cause misunderstanding
- (Global trade and economic imperialism)
- Describe and explain conditions and motivations that contribute to conflict, cooperation, and interdependence among groups, societies, and nations
- Analyze and evaluate the effects of changing technologies on the global community (Global trade and economic imperialism facilitated by an increase in global interconnectedness due to the technological boom of the late 20th century to today)
- Analyze the causes and consequences of persistent, contemporary, and emerging global issues, and evaluate possible solutions
- Analyze the relationships and tensions between national sovereignty and global interests, in matters such as territorial rights, economic development, the use of natural resources, and human rights (Understanding the role of the U.S. in the global community both economically and politically through trade and political policies)
- Describe and evaluate the role of international and multinational organizations in the global arena (U.N., NATO, NAFTA, etc..)
- Illustrate how individual behaviors and decisions connect with global systems
- Identify concerns, issues, conflicts, and possible resolutions related to issues involving universal human rights (Understanding the political role the U.S. plays today in handling human rights issues ex. Syria)
- Identify the roles of international and multinational organizations

CIVIC IDEALS & PRACTICES

- Understand the theme of civic ideals and practices helps us recognize where gaps between ideals and practices exist, and prepares us to work for social justice
- Understand concepts and ideals such as: human dignity, social justice, liberty, equality, inalienable rights, responsibilities, civil dissent, citizenship, majority and minority rights, the common good, and the rule of law
- Understand key practices involving the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and the exercise of citizenship (e.g., respecting the rule of law and due process, voting, serving on a jury, researching issues, making informed judgments, expressing views on issues, and collaborating with others to take civic action)
- Understand scholarly interpretations of key documents that define and support democratic ideals and practices (e.g., the U.S. Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Sentiments in Seneca Falls, New York, the Gettysburg Address, the Letter from Birmingham Jail; and international Documents such as the Declaration of the Rights of Man, and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Children)
- Understand the origins, functions, evolution, and outcomes of major institutions and practices designed to sustain and more fully realize democratic ideals (How the democratic ideals shape how our U.S. government and functions today)
- Ask and find answers to questions about how to become informed and take civic action
- Compare and contrast the roles of citizen in various forms of government past and present (revisiting/reviewing the info from 11th grade. Touching on more specific facets of our civil duties today)
- Identify examples of civic ideals and practices throughout history and in a variety of cultural settings
- Research primary and secondary sources to make decisions and propose solutions to selected civic issues in the past and present
- Identify assumptions, misconceptions, and biases in sources, evidence, and arguments used in presenting issues and positions
- Identify, seek, describe, and evaluate multiple points of view about selected issues, noting the strengths, weaknesses, and consequences associated with holding each position
- Develop a position on a public policy issue and defend it with evidence
- Evaluate the effectiveness and importance of public opinion in influencing and shaping public policy development and decision-making
- Evaluate the degree to which public policies and citizen behaviors reflect or foster their stated civic ideals
- Participate in the process of persuading, compromising, debating, and negotiating in the resolution of conflicts and differences
- (Argumentation activities: the two party system needs to be replaced, voter I.D. laws are useful, campaign finance laws are not productive, etc...)