



BROWNELL TALBOT

World History: Ancient 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. In World History: Ancient to Renaissance students will study the development of civilizations in all parts of the world from the dawn of mankind through the mid-16th century. Due to the vast scope of the curriculum, this course should be seen as an introductory overview to the diverse cultures and histories which have made up the collective world experience. Each regions' culture will be explored by addressing the following fields of study; geographic realities, the role of individuals within the larger social order, origins and implementation of governing philosophies, and religious traditions. Specific emphasis will be placed on how interactions between different regions either advanced, slowed, or occasionally even destroyed some segments of the world's diverse culture. Links for AP U.S. and World History course standards are located at the bottom of this document.

CULTURE

- Understand „culture“ refers to the socially transmitted behaviors, beliefs, values, traditions, institutions, and ways of living together of a group of people
- Understand concepts such as: beliefs, values, mores, institutions, cohesion, diversity, accommodation, adaptation, assimilation, and dissonance
- Understand that culture is an integrated whole that explains the functions and interactions of language, literature, the arts, traditions, beliefs, values, and behavior patterns
- Understand how culture develops and changes in ways that allow human societies to address their needs and concerns
- Understand how people from different cultures develop diverse cultural perspectives and frames of reference (special emphasis placed on how cultural diffusion between the many regions over the ages helped to impact the spread of socio-economic, political and religious ideologies)
- Understand that behaviors, values, and beliefs of different cultures can lead to cooperation or pose barriers to cross-cultural understanding
- Understand that awareness and knowledge of other cultures is important in a connected society and an interdependent world
- Understand that the cultural values and beliefs of societies influence their analysis of challenges, and their responses to these challenges
- Give examples of the value of cultural unity and cultural diversity, within and across groups
- 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
- Time, Continuity, & Change
- Understand different interpretations of the history of societies, cultures, and humankind
- Understand concepts such as: era, chronology, causality, change, continuity, conflict, historiography, historical method, primary and secondary sources, cause and effect, and multiple perspectives
- Understand that knowledge of the past is influenced by the questions investigated, the sources used, and the perspective of the historian
- Understand different interpretations of key historical periods and patterns of change within and across nations, cultures, and time periods (e.g., the origin of democratic principles in Ancient Greece, the development of new philosophies in China emanating from the Warring States Period; and the challenging of existing religious systems due to economic or military incursions as seen with Islam's entry into India)
- Understand the impact across time and place of key historical forces, such as nationalism, imperialism, globalization, leadership, revolution, wars, concepts of rights and responsibilities, and religion

- Understand different interpretations of the influences of social, geographic, economic, and cultural factors on the history of local areas, states, nations, and the world
- Understand the contributions of philosophies, ideologies, individuals, institutions, and key events and turning points in shaping history
- Understand the importance of knowledge of the past to an understanding of the present and to informed

decision-making about the future (eg. the different attitude towards ‘the outside world’ taken by Medieval China & Europe and how that affected their positions at the dawn of modernity)

- Evaluate the impact of the institutions, values, and beliefs of people in the past on important historical decisions and developments, and compare different interpretations of the causes and consequences of these decisions and developments

PEOPLE, PLACES, & ENVIRONMENTS

- Understand the theme of people, places, and environments involves the study of the relationships between human populations in different locations and regional and global geographic phenomena, such as landforms, soils, climate, vegetation, and natural resources (eg. in Asia, the inevitable interaction between river valley civilizations and their more nomadic steppeland neighbors)
- Understand concepts such as: location, physical and human characteristics of national and global regions in the past and present, and the interactions of humans with the environment
- Understand consequences of changes in regional and global physical systems, such as seasons, climate, and weather, and the water cycle (special emphasis placed on the effect of monsoons toward the development in India, SE Asia, and E Africa)

- Understand the cultural diffusion of customs and ideas
- Understand factors that contribute to cooperation and conflict among peoples of the nation and world, including language, religion, and political beliefs
- Understand the use of a variety of maps, globes, graphic representations, and geospatial technologies to help investigate spatial relations, resources, and population density and distribution, and changes in these phenomena over time
- Ask and find answers to geographic questions related to regions, nations, and the world in the past and present (eg. why was Ancient Egypt a more closed off society whereas Mesopotamia became a Fertile Crescent of cultural diffusion)
- Analyze different interpretations of the causes and effects of migrations of people in various times and places on the globe

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT & IDENTITY

- Understand the theme of individual development and identity helps us know about different theories explaining individual development and identity
- Understand that complex and varied interactions among individuals, groups, cultures, and nations contribute to the dynamic nature of personal identity

- Discuss the nature of stereotyping, bias, altruism, and conformity in societies, and their implications for personal, group, and national relationships
- Describe similarities and differences in individual development across cultures

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 (eg. how the Western notion of individuality was shaped by Greek philosophers such as Socrates, while Eastern notions of conformity and devotion to family came from Confucius)
- 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
- 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 groups and institutions work to meet individual needs, and can promote the common good and address persistent social issues
- 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

POWER, AUTHORITY, & GOVERNANCE

- 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 (eg. the causes of the transformation from Ancient Rome from a republican to an imperial political framework, or how the Mandate of Heaven ideology helped to centralize Chinese political order)
- 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
- 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
- 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 (eg. how seafaring societies such as the Phoenicians or Greeks differed in their acceptance of outside ideas as opposed to land-based power centers such as Egypt or China)
- Evaluate the extent to which governments achieve their stated ideals and policies at home and abroad
- Apply modes of inquiry used in political science to research issues concerning power, authority, and governance (eg. why within the small Greek civilization did their develop four distinct types of governments - oligarchy, aristocracy, monarchy, or democracy)

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

- Understand global connections are rapidly accelerating across cultures and nations, and can have both positive and negative effects on nations and individuals (the rapid spread of both Buddhism across Asia and Islam across Africa & Asia)
- Understand the causes and consequences of various types of global connections
- Understand technological advances can both improve and detract from the quality of life
- Ask and find answers to questions about the ways in which people and societies are connected globally today and were connected in the past (eg. how the writings of Marco Polo helped lead to the development of the Renaissance in Europe, whereas the Treasure Fleets of the Ming led to a retraction of Chinese interest in the outside world)
- Explain how language, belief systems, and other cultural elements can facilitate global understanding or cause misunderstanding
- Analyze and evaluate the effects of changing technologies on the global community (eg. how the spread of gunpowder from China to the rest of the world altered outcomes in regional conflicts across the globe)

CIVIC IDEALS & PRACTICES

- 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
- Compare and contrast the roles of citizen in various forms of government past and present
- Identify examples of civic ideals and practices throughout history and in a variety of cultural settings (eg the constant battle between the centralizing forces of king, emperor, pharaoh, or shogun vs. the decentralizing political impulse of warlord, kshatriya, daimyo, etc;)
- 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