

Curriculum Map: Contemporary Social Science

Meadville Area Senior High School

Social Studies Department

Course Description: This course will be will be broad spectrum social studies class that will entail coverage of a range of the social sciences.

Psychology is a study of human behavior and the mental processes that shape behavior. It aims to control, observe, predict, explain, and describe behavior.

A portion of the course will provide a study into the workings of government and the understanding of economics. Past and current events in American political history will be addressed. The government portion of the course is to focus on structure, civics, politics, and ideology. The economics portion of the course is to focus on applied principles that may be understood and practiced.

The goal of the class is to prepare a student to be a successful member of society as it pertains to the American Economic system. Additional reading selections and economic problem-solving will be assigned in the course.

Law is the body of governmental rules which regulate the way people live. Law is based on man's experiences and needs enforced by people whose job it is to see that laws are obeyed. Laws help people live together by setting rules and courts to settle disputes. Laws are essential for civilization to exist and progress.

Class discussions revolve around concepts such as what to do if arrested, contracts, divorce, burglary/robbery, murder/manslaughter, torts, bail/bond, criminal/civil trial procedure, small claims court, and more. Each class begins with a student initiated class discussion of current legal incidents. The goal of the course is to prepare the student to be a successful member of our complex legal world

Unit Title: Foundations of Democracy

Suggested time frame: 1 week

Standards:

5.1.3-12 A-F, 5.2. 3-12 A-G, 5.2.3-12 A-K, 5.4.3-12 A-E

Essential Questions

- How is power gained, used, and justified?
- Are citizens responsible for the success or failure of our government?
- What is power? What forms does it take?
- How do individuals and interest groups help government to shape policy?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze and interpret the different forms of government and economies that exist presently or in the past• Understanding of signs of government effectiveness or weakness	Government Politics Constitution Dictatorship Democracy State Sovereign Divine Right Autocracy Oligarchy Anarchy Unitary Government	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

	Federal Government Confederate Government Monarchy Constitutional Monarchy Capitalism Communism Bourgeoisie Proletariat		
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Unit Title: The 3 Branches of Government

Suggested time frame: 2 weeks

Standards: 5.1.3-12 A-F, 5.2. 3-12 A-G, 5.2.3-12 A-K, 5.4.3-12 A-E

Essential Questions:

How does the legal system protect all citizens?

How do the 3 branches of the government work?

How do the branches check and balance each other?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Given a civic dilemma, students will demonstrate empathy and respect for different beliefs in the various segments of society. Conduct a mock trial (historical or fictional) that illustrates how courts settle conflicts surrounding principles and ideals of government. The social studies teacher knows how governments and structures of power function, provide order and allocate resources, and uses this knowledge to facilitate student understanding of how individuals and groups achieve their goals through political systems.	Legislative Branch Executive Branch Judicial Branch Supreme Court Congress Senate House of Representatives	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title: Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

Suggested time frame: 3 weeks

Standards: 5.1.3-12 A-F, 5.2. 3-12 A-G, 5.2.3-12 A-K, 5.4.3-12 A-E

Essential Questions:

- What does the concept of equality mean?
- How does the legal system protect all citizens?
- What are the roles of the citizen in our democracy?
- Why does a citizen have to do more than merely exercise his or her rights?
- What are your responsibilities as an American citizen?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a chart that lists the rights of citizens in the community in which you live, of citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and of citizens of the United States. Note areas of overlap and of contradiction.• Design an exhibit (poster, painting, wallboard, electronic) emphasizing a right and responsibility to be a citizen	Voting Paying taxes Demanding Civil Rights Attending School Defending the Nation Serving on Juries	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title Truth and Media

Suggested time frame: 2 weeks

Standards: 5.1.3-12 A-F, 5.2. 3-12 A-G, 5.2.3-12 A-K, 5.4.3-12 A-E

Essential Questions:

- What is truth in the media? What sources of information can we trust to tell us the truth?
- How can we come to new perceptions concerning an issue upon which we already hold strong opinions?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Careful evaluation of information sources is a hallmark of engaged citizenship. The Digital Revolution has set the stage for a dizzying number of information sources that test skills in evaluation and establishing credibility.	Blogs Slanted news Conservative Liberal Moderate Social Media	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title: Foundations of Psychology

Suggested time frame: 3 weeks

Standards:

Essential Questions: What are the six psychological perspectives?
What are the subfields of psychology?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical understanding of the 6 perspectives allows for better understanding of human behavior.• The subfields of psychology give a glimpse of the different job fields within psychology.	Biological Perspective Cognitive Perspective Humanistic Perspective Sociological Perspective Psychoanalytic Perspective Learning Perspective Clinical Psychologist Counseling Psychologist School Psychologist Developmental Psychologist Educational Psychologist Industrial/Organizational Psychologist Forensic Psychologist Personality Psychologist Social Psychologist Consumer Psychologist Environmental Psychologist Health Psychologist	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title: The Foundations of the US economy

Suggested Time Frame: 3 weeks

Standards: [6.1.7.B](#), [6.1.8.B](#), [6.1.9.B](#), [6.1.U.B](#), [6.1.W.B](#), [6.2.7.A](#), [6.2.8.A](#), [6.2.9.A](#), [6.2.12.A](#), [6.2.12.G](#), [6.2.C.A](#), [6.2.C.G](#), [6.2.U.A](#), [6.2.U.G](#), [6.2.W.A](#), [6.2.W.G](#)

Essential Questions:

- [What specific economic indicators are most effective in evaluating the condition of an economy?](#)
- [How have historical instances of restrictions and lack of restrictions on trade impacted the standard of living in the United States?](#)
- [What is the role of government in a modern mixed economy?](#)
- [How does a modern government use its power to control excessive economic expansion and avoid severe economic contraction?](#)

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate different methods of allocating goods and services by comparing the benefits and costs of each method.• Explain why advanced societies depend on money.• Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the regional, national, and international economy.• Analyze the political and economic implications of historic trade restrictions.	Economics, Resources, Scarcity, Wants, Needs, Capital, Productivity, factors of production	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title: Allocating limited resources to meet unlimited wants

Suggested Time Frame: 3 weeks

Standards: [6.1.7.B](#), [6.1.8.B](#), [6.1.9.B](#), [6.1.U.B](#), [6.1.W.B](#), [6.2.7.A](#), [6.2.8.A](#), [6.2.9.A](#), [6.2.12.A](#), [6.2.12.G](#), [6.2.C.A](#), [6.2.C.G](#), [6.2.U.A](#), [6.2.U.G](#), [6.2.W.A](#), [6.2.W.G](#)

Essential Questions:

- What overall trends can be identified in the contemporary international economic system in terms of scarcity and decisions?
- Why is determining the unintended consequences through an analysis of marginal costs/benefits and opportunity cost of a particular economic choice or national policy important?
- How do contemporary nations deal with the issue of economic scarcity and the distribution of goods and services within their respective societies?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ascertain what is gained and what is given up when a choice is made.• Analyze actions taken as a result of scarcity issues in local, regional, and international economies.• Evaluate different methods of allocating goods and services by comparing the benefits and costs of each method.	Gross Domestic Product, Gross National Product, economic indicators, Trade offs, Opportunity Costs	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title: Sensation and Perception

Suggested time frame: 2 weeks

Standards:

Essential Questions: What are the senses?
How do they work?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Distinguishing between sensation and perception. Understanding how perception can be fooled.	Sensation, perception, absolute thresholds, constancy, Gestalt, optical illusion, monocular cue, binocular cue	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title: Stress and Stress Reduction

Suggested time frame: 2 weeks

Standards: 4.1

Essential Questions: What is stress? What are the benefits and consequences of stress?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying the sources of stress and their effects on us.• Identifying strategies for dealing with stress	Stress, pressure, frustration, PTSD, coping mechanisms, meditation	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title: Developmental Psychology

Suggested time frame: 3 weeks

Standards: 1.1-4.4

Essential Questions: What are the major areas in developmental Psychology?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Understanding of the different stages of development.	Piaget, Kohlberg, Harlow, Erickson, nature, nurture, feral children, critical periods	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title: Intro to law

Suggested time frame: 3 weeks

Standards: 5.1.12B

Essential Questions: What is the difference between civil and criminal law?
How do courts proceed?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
Understanding of the criminal and civil court systems	a. law b. criminal laws c. civil laws d. plaintiff e. prosecutor f. defendant g. error of law h. precedent i. dissenting opinion j. concurring opinion k. mediation l. arbitration	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">m. settlementn. voir direo. removal for causep. peremptory challengeq. retainerr. contingency fee		
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Unit Title: Tort Law, Family Law, Consumer Law

Suggested time frame: 3 weeks

Standards: 5.1.12B

Essential Questions: What are the functions and necessities of Tort Law?

What are the functions and necessities of Family Law? What are the functions and necessities of Consumer Law?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A greater understanding of the necessities and uses of tort law, Consumer Law, and Family Law	Intentional wrongs Negligence Strict liability Medical coverage Collision coverage Comprehensive coverage Uninsured motorist coverage No-fault insurance Compensatory damages Nominal damages Punitive damages Damages Rescission and restitution Specific performance Marriage Custody Divorce Annulment	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title: Social Psychology

Suggested time frame: 3 weeks

Standards:

Essential Questions:

- How do people explain (or attribute) the behavior of others?
- What impact do these attributions have on individuals and society?
- How are individuals affected by groups?
- Under what conditions do people obey, conform, and help others?
- How do attitudes and actions influence individual and group behavior?
- How do psychologists define culture? What influence does culture have on individuals and groups?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of behaviors in social situations	Conformity, Bystander effect, Hawthorne effect, rioting, Milgram Shock Experiment, Bandura Bobo doll experiment, Stanford Prison Experiment	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

Unit Title *History and Research Methodology*

Suggested Time Frame: 3 weeks

Standards:

Essential Questions:

- How has psychology evolved to study behavior and mental processes?
- How do the different perspectives compare and contrast?
- How do psychologists use the scientific method to study behavior and mental processes?
- Which methods of research are appropriate for the study of different behaviors?
- How do psychologists draw appropriate conclusions about behavior from research?
- How do psychologists make ethical decisions about researching behavior with human and animal subjects?

Competency	Vocabulary	Strategy	Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpreting and evaluating psychological research methods and results	Scientific Method Survey Method Case Study Testing Method Longitudinal Method Cross Sectional Method Cohort Naturalistic Method Laboratory Method Bias Relative Error	Think Pair Share, TttT, Graphic Organizers, Venn Diagrams, Guided questioning, Note Taking, quizzes, exams, debates, Powerpoints, Prezis, compare and contrasting activities. Guided clip viewing	Textbook, secondary resources, video clips, interactive smartboard activities

