

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT
HIGH SCHOOL

1. General Philosophy

Social Science not only opens the door to the past, walking the students through different ages and political events but provides the opportunity to compare different political, social and economic ideologies preparing them to be active and productive citizens of the world. Saddlebrook Preparatory School strives to develop teaching techniques that impart knowledge and understanding of human behavior.

1.2 General Objectives

1.2.1 Develop learning-to-learn skills.

1.2.2 Create a culture of excitement and interest in the social science.

1.2.3 Read and think critically.

1.2.4 Analyze content competently.

1.2.5 Synthesize or reject with reason.

1.2.6 Expand and integrate knowledge across the social studies curriculum.

1.2.7 Interpret changes that have occurred in historical development by evaluating the cause and effects of those changes.

1.2.8 Understand the appropriate vocabulary and geographical references and utilize critical thinking and decision making skills.

1.2.9 Predict the probable effects of actions made by individuals and events within a given historical period.

1.2.10 Recognize universal components and manifestations of specific cultures.

1.2.11 Relate the institutions of people to basic biological, psychological and social needs.

- 1.2.12 Compare economic systems based on the concepts of economic incentives, voluntary exchange, governmental intervention and regulation.
- 1.2.13 Analyze the basic principles of political organization embodied in various historical documents and compare them with political documents and ideas from other nations.
- 1.2.14 Evaluate the importance of participation in community and political activities.
- 1.2.15 Understand the interrelationships of values, norms, and institutions and their effects upon society.
- 1.2.16 Develop interpersonal and communication skills.
- 1.2.17 Become responsible citizenship.
- 1.2.18 ESOL: Provide modified instruction for non-native speakers of English.

2. Course Offerings

- 2.1 World History
- 2.2 World History Honors
- 2.3 American History
- 2.4 American History Honors
- 2.5 American Government
- 2.6 American Government Honors
- 2.7 Economics
- 2.8 Economics Honors

3. History Objectives: (American History and World History)

- 3.1 Demonstrate knowledge of the essential elements of historical thinking (historical evidence, perspective of the participants, and cause and effect relationships).
- 3.2 Demonstrate understanding in both United States and world history by using the essential elements of historical thinking (historical evidence, perspective of the participants, and cause and effects relationships).
- 3.3 Use historical events, documents, and writing to demonstrate and understand United States and world history.
- 3.4 Create products to demonstrate historical thinking and understanding in both United States and world history.

4. Government Objectives

- 4.1 Demonstrate understanding of civic behavior, politics, government, and civil society.
- 4.2 Demonstrate understanding of the fundamental ideas of American constitutional government, the history of these ideas, and their contemporary relevance.
- 4.3 Demonstrate understanding of how power and responsibilities are distributed, shared, and limited in the government established by the United States.
- 4.4 Demonstrate understanding of expectations of the citizen in a democratic republic.

5. Economics Objectives

- 5.1 Demonstrate understanding of how scarcity of production resources requires choices that generate opportunity costs.
- 5.2 Demonstrate understanding of the characteristics of different economic systems, institutions, and incentives.

5.3 Demonstrate understanding of the basic features of market structures and the interaction of supply and demand in a market economy.

5.4 Demonstrate understanding of the role government plays in the economy of the United States.

5.5 Demonstrate understanding of economic conditions that influence decisions made by consumers, producers, and government policy makers.

1.3 **General Strengths**

1.3.1 Low teacher to student ratio enhances the learning experience.

1.3.2 Personalized instruction benefits the learning process.

1.3.3 Multicultural classes reduce ethnocentrism and foster tolerance.

1.3.4 Wireless technology resources in the classroom enhance research opportunities and capabilities.

1.3.5 Students receive input from books, newspaper articles, political cartoons, magazines, software, films and music.

1.3.6 Students develop critical thinking skills and practice research techniques in order to produce essays and papers.

1.4 **General Recommendations**

1.4.1 Consider converting to CD Rom texts rather than heavy text books.

1.4.2 Continue collaboration with library in material selection.

1.4.3 Consider organizing attendance at local cultural events and field trips to museums and historical sites.

1.4.4 **ESOL:** Provide modified instruction for non-native speakers of English.

