

Area US-1: US History

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the historical continuity of the American experience that covers at least a 100 year time span.
- Describe and analyze the roles and contributions of, and relationships among, major ethnic/social groups and movements to US history.
- Explain and analyze the causes and consequences of significant events in the US historical context relating to political, economic, geographic, and social change.
- Explain and evaluate the historical development of US institutions and ideals in relation to the Constitution and American democracy.
- Analyze and evaluate the United States in its global context, with particular attention to its historical derivation from other cultures and its incorporation of immigrants into American society.
- Identify and apply primary sources (direct or firsthand evidence about an event, object, person) and secondary sources (descriptions, interpretations, commentaries, evaluations, analyses of direct or firsthand evidence) to their understanding of US history.

Area US-2: US Constitution

Students will be able to:

- Explain the political philosophies of the framers of the US Constitution, including the fundamental ideas of the Declaration of Independence; the Federalism-Anti-Federalism debate; ideas about representative democracy; checks and balances; and the foundations of the Bill of Rights and a limited Constitution.
- Explain the characteristics, operation, and interaction of institutions in the US Constitution.
 - A. Congress: Legislative process, operation and structure, and elections.
 - B. Executive: Electoral College, unitary executive, exercise of executive power, and the functioning of the bureaucracy.
 - C. Judicial: Judicial review, decision making, and selection.
- Explain the rights and obligations of citizens under the US Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, and the incorporation of rights via the 14th Amendment.
- Explain and analyze the history and legacy of civil rights and civil rights movements in relation to the US Constitution and legislation.
- Explain and evaluate the function, role, and impact of campaigns and elections, interest groups, political parties, mass media, social movements, and public opinion on democracy in the United States.
- Explain the relationship between state, local, and federal government, including enumerated, reserved, and concurrent powers under the US Constitution over time.

Area US-3: California State and Local Government

Students will be able to:

- Explain the structure and functions of California's constitution, including plural executive, legislative and judicial branches, local governments, and the function and history of direct democracy in California politics and government.
- Describe the historical development of California's political institutions, including California's finance and budgetary processes, as well as its electoral system.
- Explain the contributions of diverse groups to California's political evolution.