

For State Board of Education Consideration

Social Studies K – 12 TEKS Review and Revision Process

Content Advisor Recommendations: Key Topics and Subtopics

January 2026

1. This document reflects the collaborative work of the Content Advisors appointed by members of the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).
 2. In developing the key topics and subtopics, the Content Advisor group considered the SBOE Framework, statutory requirements, and feedback provided by the SBOE and relevant stakeholders.
 3. The key topics and subtopics presented herein are intended as recommendations for SBOE review and consideration in the future development of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
 4. The key topics and subtopics for grades K–12 Social Studies outlined in this document represent recommended knowledge content for inclusion at each grade level or course. It is further recommended that social studies skills be integrated throughout the proposed content.
 5. For high school courses not specifically listed in this document, it is recommended that newly adopted SBOE strands be embedded into current TEKS as appropriate.
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Kindergarten | Foundational Stories of America & Texas

Key Topics

1. American Indians in Early America

- a. Stories of the Iroquois, Cherokee, and Comanche to compare and contrast
 - i. Origin Stories of the Iroquois (e.g. Wise Owl), Cherokee (e.g. Ye-Ho-Waah), & Comanche (e.g. Clever Coyote)
 - ii. Food (The Three Sisters e.g. Squash, Beans, Corn) and Housing
 - iii. Resources and the Land
 - iv. Relations with other Tribes & Peoples
 - v. Goods and Services

2. Early Exploration of America & Texas

- a. Stories of Explorers (e.g. Columbus, Cabeza de Vaca, Coronado)
 - i. Columbus' Ships
- b. Globes & Maps (e.g. World, Spain, Texas, Cardinal Directions, Rivers, Oceans)

3. The Plymouth Colony

- a. The Story of the *Mayflower*
 - i. Who were the Pilgrims? (e.g. Religious Beliefs of the Pilgrims)
 - ii. Religious Beliefs as motivation to seek religious freedom
 - iii. Mayflower Compact to establish rules in the community
 - iv. Plymouth Rock as a symbol
- b. Stories of Squanto and Massasoit
- c. Story of Thanksgiving
- d. Map: England, Atlantic Ocean, Massachusetts

4. George Washington: Father of Our Country

- a. Stories of George Washington emphasizing sequencing
 - i. Washington as a child (e.g. teaching himself (civic) virtue; his rules of civility)
 - ii. Washington as a Youth: Surveyor, War Hero, Businessman
 - iii. Washington as a General: American Revolution
 - iv. Washington as a Statesman at the Constitutional Convention and as President
- b. Map: Virginia & Washington, DC

5. We the People: Rules in the Community

- a. The Role of Rules (Story Based) (e.g. Home, School, Community)
- b. The Constitution as a Rule Book for Our Country

6. American Citizenship

- a. Expressions of Patriotism (e.g. Betsy Ross, the US Flag)
- b. The Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Other Symbols (Bald Eagle, Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty, National Anthem)
- d. Honoring Public Service (e.g. Police and Firefighters, Veterans and Military, Elected Officials)

7. Lone Star Heritage: Stories & Symbols

- a. Story of Faith (e.g. Father Damián Massanet, missionary in Texas),
- b. Story of Fairness (e.g. José Antonio Navarro, Tejano leader who welcomed settlers)

- c. Story of Freedom (e.g. Sam Houston, leader who fought for Texas independence from Mexico)
- d. Symbols of Texas Pride (e.g. The Texas Pledge of Allegiance, “Texas, Our Texas”)

8. Free Enterprise

- a. Key Elements (e.g. Choice & Opportunity Costs (“If I buy this, I can’t buy that.”), Goods & Services, Trading, Money as a Tool for Getting Wants & Needs, Ownership (Mine and Yours))

9. Innovations That Changed America & Texas

- a. The Story of Benjamin Franklin & the Key & the Kite (Electricity)
- b. The Story of Oveda Culp Hobby (Women’s Auxiliary Corps)

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Key Topics

1. Thanksgiving

- a. The Story of Thanksgiving
 - i. American Indians and Pilgrims shared a meal, and the Pilgrims gave thanks to God
 - ii. Cooperation and celebration
- b. The Story of Don Juan de Oñate & the 1598 El Paso Thanksgiving near El Paso
 - i. Map: El Paso, Rio Grande, & Cardinal Directions

2. Life in Early America and the Beginning of Self Government

- a. Story About Pilgrim Families
 - i. Mayflower Compact as an agreement between God and Pilgrims to live and work fairly
 - ii. Meeting house was a place to pray and talk about community needs
 - iii. Town meetings to vote on community matters and choose leaders
 - iv. Introduction of Free enterprise

3. The American & Texas Declarations of Independence & Symbols of Freedom

- a. American Revolution Fighting for Liberty & Unity (Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere, Thomas Jefferson writing the Declaration of Independence, “Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness”)
 - i. Story of the Boston Tea Party
 - ii. Story of Paul Revere
 - iii. Story of Crispus Attucks
 - iv. Story of Thomas Jefferson as a writer of the Declaration of Independence seeking “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” (e.g. Freedom from being ruled by a king)
 - v. Map: Boston and Philadelphia
- b. Phrases, dates, and symbols of American Freedom
 - i. Stars and Stripes on the American Flag
 - ii. Liberty Bell and Independence Hall in Philadelphia
- c. Holidays (e.g. Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day)
- d. Story of “America the Beautiful
- e. Texas Independence Stories
 - i. Stephen F. Austin as the “Father of Texas”
 - ii. William B. Travis as the Commander of the Alamo
- f. Phrases, Dates, & Symbols of Texas Freedom (e.g. The Lone Star on the Texas Flag, Texas Independence Day (March 2) celebrated with fireworks, “Deep in the Heart of Texas”

4. Abraham Lincoln & the Civil War

- a. Story of Abraham Lincoln - President who worked to end slavery and protect liberty in America.
 - i. Abraham Lincoln’s life including his birth, election as president, and the Gettysburg Address on a timeline

- ii. Map: The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- b. Juneteenth is a holiday that celebrates when enslaved people in Texas learned they were free

5. The Civil Rights Movement

- a. The Story of Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - i. Worked peacefully for liberty & equality for all Americans (e.g. “I Have a Dream, MLK, Jr. Day, MLK, Jr. Memorial)
- b. Stories of Equality & Justice
 - i. Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks
 - ii. Dr. Hector P. Garcia
 - iii. Ruby Bridges

6. The Settlement of Texas & Texas Heroes

- a. The Story of the Comanche
 - i. Use of Horses
 - ii. Migration and sources of food/resources (e.g. Buffalo Herds)
 - iii. Legend of the Bluebonnet
- b. The Story of Antonio de Olivares & the Mission that became the Alamo
 - i. Spanish missions & presidios
 - ii. Spanish and Native cultures blend
- c. Texas Independence Stories (Stephen F. Austin as the “Father of Texas,” William B. Travis & the Alamo)
- d. Phrases, Dates, & Symbols of Texas Freedom (The Lone Star, Texas Flag, Texas Independence Day (March 2), “Deep in the Heart of Texas”)

7. Free Enterprise Shapes Texas

- a. Participation in Free Enterprise (e.g. producers and consumers, supply & demand, trade among peoples and countries, ways to earn and use money, making products & providing services, starting a business or working as an employee)
- b. Stories of free enterprise in Texas
 - i. Patillo Higgins- oil at Spindletop Hill in Beaumont in 1901, The Texas Boom
 - ii. Henry O. Flipper- engineer and surveyor with Texas land and oil projects
 - iii. William P. Hobby- Texas leader and Governor who supported business in the early oil years in Texas
 - iv. Gail Borden- condensed milk
- c. Oil in Texas led to new towns, transportation and products

Key Topics

1. Ancient Civilizations: People and Places That Influenced America & Texas

- a. Globes & Maps: 7 Continents & 5 Oceans
- b. Stories of Early Civilizations and their characteristics
 - i. Clovis in North America
 - ii. Hebrews in the Middle East
 - iii. Olmec and Ancestral Pueblo in the Americas,
 - iv. the Mississippian along the Mississippi River,
 - v. Greek and Roman civilizations in Europe
 - vi. Ancient African civilizations
 - vii. Characteristics (e.g. Leaders (kings, chiefs, presidents), Natural Resources available for daily life and innovations such as irrigation systems, farming, and aqueducts)

2. American Heroes in the War for Independence

- a. Map: The Thirteen Colonies
- b. Reasons for the American Revolution
 - i. Taxation Without Representation
- c. Stories of the American Revolution
 - i. Patrick Henry- Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death
 - ii. General George Washington and the Battle of Yorktown
 - iii. Oneida People- part of Iroquois Confederacy- scouting, carrying messages and sharing food
 - iv. Martha Washington- helped injured soldiers
 - v. Marquis de Lafayette- French supported Washington in the War
 - vi. Daniel Boone- explorer, Wilderness Road

3. The Rule of Law

- a. The Story of the Constitutional Convention
 - i. The US is a constitutional republic based on rule of law provided by the Constitution to protect liberties and freedoms of Americans
 - ii. Leaders are chosen by the people
 - iii. The Constitution is the most important law in the US

4. The War of 1812

- a. The Story of the War of 1812
 - i. Strengthens American Identity
 - ii. Britain interfered with American trade
 - iii. USS Constitution (*e.g. Old Ironsides*)
 - iv. Dolly Madison saved George Washington's portrait
 - v. Francis Scott Key and the Star-Spangled Banner
 - vi. Andrew Jackson- war hero defended American independence at the Battle of New Orleans

5. People & Events That Made Texas

- a. Spanish were part of the Texas settlement

- i. Spanish Missions- farming and ranching
- b. Texas Revolution
 - i. The Alamo-symbol of courage and sacrifice
 - ii. The Texas Declaration of Independence
 - iii. James Bowie
 - iv. David Crockett
 - v. Battle of San Jacinto
 - vi. Goliad
- c. Thomas Jefferson Rusk
- d. Sam Houston
- e. Juan Seguin
- f. The Tonkawa and other tribes in Texas as allies who helped the Texian Army
- g. Government of the Republic of Texas
- 6. Texas as a Land of Opportunity**
- a. How Immigrants & Settlers came to and shaped Texas
 - i. Germans and Czechs farming in the Hill Country
 - ii. Chinese helping build railroads
 - iii. Irish farming in Texas
 - iv. Mexican ranching, farming, and community culture
- b. How Immigrants and settlers came to and shaped Texas
 - i. Germans and Czechs farming in the Hill Country
 - ii. Chinese helping build railroads
 - iii. Irish farming in Texas
 - iv. Mexican ranching, farming and community culture
 - v. Story of Charles Schreiner
 - vi. Story of Henry and Henrietta King – King Ranch
 - vii. Story of Martin de Leon – Tejano rancher in Victoria
- c. Practicing Good Citizenship by volunteering, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and celebrating patriotic holidays
- 7. People of the Civil War**
- a. Civil War
 - i. A War between citizens of the same country
 - ii. Slavery took away people’s freedom and treated Africans as property instead of human beings. The Civil War happened because some states wanted to keep slavery, while others wanted it to end. The war was fought to decide whether slavery would continue in the United States.
 - iii. Abraham Lincoln was the President who worked to end slavery
- b. The Story of People Who Opposed Slavery (e.g. Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman)
- c. Military Leaders (e.g. Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Robert Smalls)

Key Topics

1. River Valley Civilizations and Connections to America and Texas

- a. Map: Mediterranean Sea, Fertile Crescent, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Nile River, and Tigris-Euphrates River
- b. Migration of early people (Africa to Europe, Asia, the Americas, Texas)
- c. Hunter-gatherer societies
- d. Important developments in human civilization from the earliest civilizations:
 - i. Fertile crescent (irrigation systems, Phonetician alphabet and Texas and United States)
 - ii. Egypt (papyrus, hieroglyphic writing, slavery, pyramids and obelisks prepare them for the afterlife, e.g. Washington Monument and San Jacinto monument, complete rule of the pharaohs, e.g. examples of the kind of unlimited government the American Founders believed America should avoid)

2. Mesoamerican and other American Civilizations and Connections to America and Texas

- a. Map: Mesoamerica
- b. Land bridge- Beringia
- c. Important developments in human civilization from the earliest Mesoamerican civilizations
 - i. Clovis culture
 - ii. Poverty Point complex
 - iii. Olmec culture and Preclassical and classical Maya civilization in the Yucatán and Central America
- d. Traits and contributions of early humans in Texas
 - iv. Geographic regions of Texas (East Texas, Blackland Prairie, Coastal Plains, South Texas, West Texas, Panhandle, Hill Country, and Trans-Pecos)
 - v. Gault Site in Williamson County
 - vi. Rock art sites such as those in the lower Pecos River valley included in the White Shaman site
 - vii. lithics and worked stone projectile points
- e. How geography, especially the availability of water, shaped the development of civilizations in Texas, including the Caddo, Karankawa, Coahuiltecan, Mansos, and Ancestral Pueblo.
 - viii. Settlement in regions such as rivers, plains, deserts, and coasts
 - ix. Sources of food for consumption and trade
 - x. Practice of slavery through captive-taking
 - xi. How each group solved problems of scarcity in their region
- f. Systems of leadership and political organization in Texas (Caddo chiefs in farming villages, Karankawa family leaders along the coast, Coahuiltecan bands, Ancestral Pueblo councils in specialized buildings like kivas in desert farming communities)

- g. The word Tejas, meaning “friend” or “ally”, which oral tradition states came from the Caddo language and gave Texas its name

3. Ancient Israel and Connections to America and Texas

- a. Important historical events and contributions to Western civilization from the ancient Israelites
 - i. Location on a Map: Ancient Israel, Jerusalem
 - ii. Influential ancient Hebrew narratives found in the Bible (Old Testament) and their influence on America and Texas (American culture, abolition movement, African American spirituals influenced of the story of Moses, Hebrew slavery in Egypt, the Exodus and the Promised Land, Ten Commandments and the laws of the Torah, including their influence on right and wrong , and American ideas about laws, the Hebrew story of being the chosen people by God for the specific purpose with a promised land which would inspired Puritans and other people moving to North America)
- b. The role of ancient Hebrew leaders and their influence on Texas and American leaders
 - i. Abraham who founded Israel and is the father of three major religions practiced by many Americans
 - ii. Moses who led the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery and served as inspiration and encouragement for African Americans held in slavery in America and Texas

4. Ancient Greece and Connections to America and Texas

- a. Important historical events and contributions to America and Texas by the ancient Greeks
 - i. Location on a map: Greece, Greek city-states (Athens and Sparta)
 - ii. Scientific and cultural contributions from the ancient Greeks (Parthenon e.g. Lincoln Memorial, Olympics which Americans and Texans compete in today, Greek alphabet as the source of English alphabet used in America and Texas today, myths, legends, history, pottery, polytheism)
 - iii. Ancient Greek historical events and their influence on America and Texas (Battle of Thermopylae e.g. Alamo comparison, Alexander the Great and the Library of Alexandria (e.g. public libraries in America and Texas)
 - iv. Greek ideas about rules and government and their influence on America and Texas (citizenship, liberty, democracy, responsibilities, and the rule of law, self-government, juries, the separation of powers)

5. Ancient Rome and Connections to America and Texas

- a. Important historical events and contributions to Western civilization, America, and Texas by the Roman Republic
 - i. Map: Roman Empire
 - ii. Influential ancient Roman historical events and stories for America and Texas (Romulus and the founding of Rome, Brutus and the founding of the Republic, Cincinnatus, e.g. why George Washington is called the American Cincinnatus, the Roman leader Gaius Marius, e.g. to whom Sam Houston compared himself in his portrait, Julius Caesar' and Augustus'

transformation of the Roman Republic into the Republic Empire (e.g. who American months of July and August are named)

- b. Roman contributions to civilizations (the architectural features exemplified by the Colosseum and Pantheon and their influence on America and Texas, e.g. US and Texas capitols and Jefferson memorial, Latin words used in English used in America and Texas today, e.g. *E Pluribus Unum* on the Great Seal of the United States)
- c. Roman contributions to government in America and Texas (republicanism)
- d. Important historical events and contributions to Western Civilization, America, and Texas by the Roman Empire (influential aspects of Christianity that began under Roman rule and later influenced American and Texas laws and traditions (Jesus of Nazareth e.g. treat others the way you want to be treated and to love your neighbor, Christian ideas, e.g. value of every individual, doing what is right, and showing compassion to others helped shape American beliefs about equality, rights, and treating people with dignity)
- e. Why Western Roman Empire weakened and the lessons it gave to America's founders (the emperors spending more money than they had, economic instability and shrinking trade)

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Key Topics

1. The Middle Ages in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East and Connections to America and Texas

- a. Important Historical events in Africa and Asia (locations and mapping, Muhammed and the Quran, spread of Islam through trade and conquest, Islamic Golden Age, Muslim conquest of Spain, influence of Spanish civilization e.g. Spanish influence on architecture on missions in California, New Mexico and Texas including the Alamo).
 - i. African Kingdoms (Mansa Musa)
 - ii. Asia (Marco Polo, Tang and Song Dynasty, innovations e.g. gun powder and printing)
 - iii. Silk road, Trans-Saharan caravans, and Indian Ocean sea routes

2. The Middle Ages in Europe and Connections to America and Texas

- a. Important historical events and contributions to Western civilization in Early Middle Ages
 - i. Locations on a map (Alps and Pyrenees mountains, Sahara and Arabian Deserts, Baltic and North Seas, Danube River, Germany, Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom, and Israel)
 - ii. Role of the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages (monasteries e.g. model that Spanish missions would later imitate in Texas, monks preservation of ancient texts by copying them by hand)
- b. Important historical events and contributions from Medieval Europe
 - i. Important peoples and leaders (Charlemagne, Norse people e.g. influence on English names for days of the week as used in America and Texas, Viking raids across Europe, Leif Erikson e.g. first explored North America)
- c. Important events and contributions to Western civilization, America and Texas in the Middle Ages (feudalism e.g. castles and knights, English common law e.g. influenced American and Texas law, 1215 Magna Carta e.g. influenced the U.S. Constitution's limits of government power and protection of rights, chivalry as a code of honor for knights e.g. influenced Texas cowboy code, innovations and inventions e.g. watermill, windmills, iron plough, crop rotation that would later be used in America and Texas, Gothic style architecture e.g. inspired National Cathedral, America and Texas colleges can be traced back to cathedral schools and universities of the Middle Ages, Christian reconquest called the *Reconquista* of Southern Iberia, Arabic numbers e.g. used in America and Texas)

3. People in the Americas and Texas

- a. How civilizations and trade grew and changed in the Americas in the Middle Ages
 - i. Location on a map of the Americas (Andes, Appalachian, and Rocky Mountains, Great Lakes, Amazon River, Mississippi River, and Rio Grande River, Mexico, Texas, the Yucatan Peninsula, and the Caribbean Sea)
 - ii. Effects of these landforms on where people settled and traded in America and Texas

- iii. Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula (pyramids at Chichén Itzá, the city of Tikal, glyph writing, calendar system, Mayan food on modern Texas culture e.g. corn, beans, chocolate)
- iv. Inca Empire (Machu Picchu, *mit'a* system e.g. as community responsibility, innovations e.g. *quipus* (knotted string for record keeping), terrace farming, systems of roads for communication and regional trade)
- v. Aztec Empire (founding of Tenochtitlán, *chinampas* (floating gardens), Aztec conquest and slavery toward neighboring tribes)
- vi. Many Texans are descended from the peoples of Mexico and South America and their cultural heritage influences Texas culture today
- vii. Mississippian culture (Cahokia and other towns, Mound builder cultures across what would become the eastern United States, extensive trade networks)
- b. Civilizations in Texas in the centuries prior to European exploration and settlement
 - i. Differences between natural resources in east and west Texas and its effect on American Indian tribes (compare and contrast)
 - ii. Traits of the Caddo (their origins in Mississippi culture e.g. permanent villages and location in Piney Woods of East Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, Mound complexes including Caddo Mounds State Park in Alto Texas, farming “three sisters” e.g. corn, beans, and squash, systems of crop rotation, extensive trade networks across the region)
 - iii. Traits of the Jumano (Big Bend and West Texas, traded goods with Pueblo and Caddo specialization, Paint Rock, villages of adobe)
 - iv. Traits of the Apache in the Plains of Texas as people (moved seasonally to hunt buffalo, tipis and grass huts, buffalo jumps, fought and conquered other tribes to gain access to scarce resources, trade networks from Rio Grande, Alibates flint quarry, sacred springs used by Coahuiltecan people, Loma Sandia near Corpus Christi as an ancient burial ground)

4. The Renaissance and Connections to America and Texas

- a. Important historical events and contributions to Western civilization in the Renaissance and the exploration of Christopher Columbus
 - i. Location of Italian states
 - ii. Main traits of the Renaissance (restoring classical Greek and Roman ideas of liberty and self-government and the classical style of art as modeled by Raphael’s painting *The School of Athens*, “humanism” and its focus on the dignity, individuality, and importance of human beings (ideas shared by American founding fathers), Leonardo da Vinci “Renaissance man” later modeled by American founders Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, great works of painting, sculpture, and architecture by Donatello, Michaelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Raphael reflected in the architecture of the White House, the role of wealthy patrons in advancing art and learning and developing banks and the free enterprise system in America and Texas today e.g. Medici)

5. Columbus and the Beginning of Exploration

- a. Important historical events and contributions to world history from the Age of Exploration
 - i. Causes of the Age of Exploration (conquest of Constantinople, scientific innovations of the caravel ship and the compass e.g. cannon)
 - ii. Voyages of Christopher Columbus (Columbus's claiming of the land for Spain, the spread of Christianity, and his alliances and conflicts with the Indians e.g. Taino and Carib, Columbus Day (October 12), and places and names including the District of Columbia, America Vespucci (America))

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Key Topics

1. Reformation, Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment and Connections to America and Texas

- a. Important historical events and effects in the Protestant Reformation and the Scientific Revolution
 - i. Protestant Reformation (encouraged people to question both religious and political authority which American colonists would later do as well, printing press allowed the ideas of the Reformation to spread quickly a tradition continued by the American founders when seeking independence, wide spread distribution of the Bible, disagreements over religious freedom led to migration to America)
 - ii. The most important discoveries of the Scientific Revolution (Nicolaus Copernicus' sun-centered model of the universe, Galileo, Francis Bacon's description of the scientific method, Isaac Newtons' observations about gravity)
 - iii. Technological improvements that promoted economic development during Scientific Revolution (turnpikes, canals, lighthouses, cement, glassware, crop rotation)
 - iv. Enlightenment ideas of liberty that inspired America and Texas (John Locke and natural rights e.g. life liberty and property, Charles Montesquieu e.g. separation of powers and checks and balances, Adam Smith e.g. economic freedom)

2. Exploration and Early Settlements in America

- a. Important historical events and developments in the European settlements of the Americas
 - i. Spanish conquistadors (Juan Ponce De Leon and the exploration of Florida, Montezuma and the Aztecs by Hernán Cortés, Incas by Francisco Pizarro)
 - ii. Rule in the Americas by the Spanish Empire including in present-day Texas (the founding of New Spain and Mexico City, the Spanish *encomienda* system, the inhumane treatment of American Indians and Friar Bartolomé de Las Casas to protect the American Indians)
 - iii. The Pueblo Revolt in 1680 – successful Native America rebellion that led to new settlements in Texas
 - iv. The Columbian Exchange (cattle, horses, timothy grass, sugar, tomatoes, corn, tobacco, gold, silver, precious metals, diseases to which American Indians had not developed resistance e.g. smallpox and its killing of millions of American Indians, map the Columbian Exchange)
 - v. The practice of slavery in the British, Spanish and Portuguese empires (the role of European traders and African tribal leaders in capturing and selling Africans into slavery e.g. origins of the Middle Passage, the inhumane treatment of African slaves, the experience of new world slaves most of

- whom were taken to South America and the Caribbean islands, triangle trade and transatlantic slave trade- American colonies smallest participant)
- vi. French exploration and fur trading - René-Robert Cavelier and Sieur de La Salle

3. Exploration and Settlements in Texas

- a. Important historical events and developments in the Spanish settlement of Texas.
 - i. Major geographic features of Texas (the Gulf Coastal Plains, Gulf of America, Great Plains, Guadalupe Mountains, Rio Grande River, Piney Woods, Hill Country, and Big Bend National Park)
 - ii. Spanish explorers (Alonso Alvarez de Pineda, Cabeza de Vaca, Francisco Coronado, Hernando de Soto and his men led by Luis de Moscoso after de Soto's death in 1542 as the first Europeans to enter Texas)
 - iii. The effects of Spanish rule in Texas prior to 1600 (Catholic Spanish missions and presidios in Texas, cultural changes including in foods of flour tortillas, stews and barbecue that would shape Tex Mex cuisine popular in Texas today, the Apache use of horses introduced by the Spanish to expand their buffalo hunting, raiding and travel, and the religious tradition Las Posadas)
 - iv. The effects of Spanish rule in Texas between 1600 and 1800 (Antonio Margil de Jesus, Friar Francisco Hidalgo, the rise of the Comanches (Nʌmʌnʌ) and their expert use of horses, Spain influenced Texas legal traditions including the right of women to own property and concept of community property)

4. Trade and the Spread of Ideas

- a. Important world exchanges between European powers and world civilizations during and after the Age of Exploration
 - i. The growth of the Ottoman Empire (The Ottoman Empire's role in trade, Battle of Malta, the Battle of Lepanto, the Siege of Vienna)
 - ii. Change among Christians following the Protestant Reformation (defeat of the Spanish Armada which determined that England and her future American colonies would be Protestant, Glorious Revolution to inspire American colonies and founders to seek political and religious freedom)
 - iii. Mercantilism, pirates and privateers
 - iv. How absolute monarchs (James I) claimed total power by divine right and limited individual freedoms, in contrast to the traditions of self-government and personal liberty later sought in the American colonies)

5. The British Colonies in America

- a. The founding of American colonies
 - i. Location on a map (what would become thirteen colonies, three colonial regions and their traits)
 - ii. Jamestown (Powhatan and the English and cooperation between Pocahontas and John Smith, the starving time)
 - iii. Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay (how the Pilgrims and Puritans both sought religious freedom, Mayflower and surviving the first winter with help of American Indians including the Wampanoag and Squanto, first Thanksgiving)

- iv. Ideas at Jamestown and Plymouth that would define America (free enterprise, private property, merit, religious freedom, consent of the people and self-government found in Virginia House of Burgesses and the Mayflower Compact, John Winthrop's image of "A City Upon a Hill")
- v. Religious diversity in American colonies (Anglicans, Catholics, Quakers)
- vi. Life in the colonies (colonists and American Indians cooperated at sometimes and were in conflict, indentured servitude and slavery, origins of the anti-slavery movement e.g. Pilgrims, Quakers, John Woolman)
- b. Important ideas and events that influenced self-government in colonial America
 - i. Salutary neglect
 - ii. Great Awakening and Whitfield
 - iii. The Enlightenment
 - iv. Colonial government, town government, and militias, English idea of rights

6. The American War for Independence and the Pursuit of Freedom

- a. Important causes, events, and effects of the American Revolution
 - i. French and Indian War
 - ii. Boston Massacre
 - iii. The Tea Act, Boston Tea Party, Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty
 - iv. Stamp Act (Taxation without Representation)
 - v. Intolerable Acts
- b. Events and people that led to the American Revolution
 - i. Continental Congress
 - ii. Minuteman of Lexington and Concord
 - iii. Thomas Paine
- c. Declaration of Independence
 - i. July 4, 1776
 - ii. Inalienable rights ("all men are created equal", "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness")
 - iii. Abigail Adams ("Remember the Ladies")
- d. The American War for Independence
 - i. Battle of Trenton, and Valley Forge
 - ii. John Paul Jones, Nathaniel Green, Marquis de Lafayette, Baron von Steuben, James Armistead Lafayette, patriots and loyalists
 - iii. Battle of Saratoga
 - iv. George Washington's leadership at the end of the war, Yorktown and the Newburgh Conspiracy

7. The United States Constitution and the Age of Washington

- a. The American founders' efforts at self-government as an independent country
 - i. Articles of Confederation
 - ii. Northwest Ordinance forbade slavery
 - iii. Constitutional Convention (Connecticut Compromise, Electoral College, Three-Fifths Compromise, Slave Trade Compromise)
 - iv. The important parts of American government under the U.S. Constitution (principles e.g. popular sovereignty, republicanism, federalism, checks and

balances, separation of powers, individual rights, limited government, rule of law, and protecting liberty from tyranny, citizenship e.g. civil rights, loyalty, obeying the law, voting, military service, supreme law of the land, Constitution is designed for longevity, federalist, anti-federalist, and the Bill of Rights)

- v. Foreign and domestic policies of Washington (Washington's Farewell Address)
- vi. Foreign and domestic policies of Adams (Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, Quasi War)

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Key Topics

1. Revolutions in Europe and the Americas during the 1800s

- a. The history of Texas from 1800 to 1825
 - i. Mexican War for Independence (social hierarchy in Mexico, Miguel Hidalgo, the Battle of Medina in present day Texas)

2. The Early Republic and Emergence of an American Culture

- a. The history of America during the Early Republic from 1800 to 1825 (important events from the presidency of Thomas Jefferson e.g. election of 1800, Louisiana Purchase, prohibition of slave imports by Jefferson and Congress in 1808, The War of 1812 e.g. limits on free trade, Andrew Jackson and the Battle of New Orleans, effect of the War of 1812- emergence of an American culture, Monroe Doctrine, how early Texas culture blended Tejano ranching and Spanish traditions)

3. Texas Settlement

- a. The history of settling Texas
 - i. Location on a map (Texas landforms e.g. Galveston Bay, Matagorda Bay, Padre Island, the Big Bend, Panhandle, Gulf Coast, Sabine River, Red River)
 - ii. Major cities of Texas (Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Lubbock, El Paso, Waco)
 - iii. Natural Resources (timber, agriculture fossil fuels)
 - iv. Causes and effects of the Mexican War for Independence
- b. American settlers in Tejas (The Mexican government's land grants and other incentives for Americans, Panic of 1819, Constitution of 1824)
- c. *Empresarios*
- d. Stephen F. Austin and the Old Three Hundred
- e. Both peaceful and violent interactions between the Comanches and settlers (Cynthia Parker, Matilda Lockhart, and Juana Cavazos)

4. Westward Expansion

- a. Westward Expansion from 1825-1848 in Texas and the United States
 - i. Causes of Westward Expansion (New inventions, Manifest Destiny)
 - ii. Key innovations in the first Industrial Revolution (coal power, steamboats, cotton gin)
 - iii. Presidency of Andrew Jackson (expanded voting rights for men, Trail of Tears)
 - iv. Mexican-American War (annexation of Texas, James K. Polk, important events and role of Texans, growth in trade through Galveston, Indianola, and other Texas ports, Mexican Cession in the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, US and American Indian relations)
 - v. Important population shifts in Antebellum America (Mormon Trail, Oregon Trail, European emigration to Texas, new waves of immigrants from Ireland and Germany and the Nativist response, California Gold Rush, migration to California and its statehood in the Compromise of 1850)

5. Texas Revolution

- a. The Texas Revolution

- i. Declaration of Independence from Mexico (suspension of the Constitution of 1824, Santa Anna, Texas Declaration of Independence, March 2, 1836 Texas Independence Day, “Come and Take it” Flag, and “Remember the Alamo”, Stephen F. Austin, Samuel Houston, Richard Ellis, Juan Sequin, Gonzales, the Siege of Bexar, Battle at Goliad, Battle of San Jacinto, Battle of the Alamo, James Bowie, William B. Travis, David Crockett, Susanna Dickenson)

6. Texas, The Civil War, and Reconstruction

- a. Life in Antebellum Texas and America
 - i. Sectionalism (slave labor, cotton gin, Missouri Compromise, Nat Turner Rebellion)
 - ii. Causes of the American Civil War (role of important abolitionists prior to the Civil War e.g. Grimké sisters, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Beecher Stowe, John Quincy Adams, William Lloyd Garrison, Second Great Awakening, Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad and inspiration from Moses, the Israelites, and the Exodus)
 - iii. Important events that led to the Civil War (Great Compromise of 1850 including the Fugitive Slave Act and its impact on Texas, popular sovereignty, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, *Dred Scott* case, Bleeding Kansas, founding of the Republican party, John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry, the election of Abraham Lincoln, secession of South Carolina, Ft. Sumter)
 - iv. Civil War battles (battlefields in Texas e.g. Galveston, Sabine Pass, and Palmito Ranch, location of Union, Confederate, and border states, Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Sherman’s March to the Sea, Appomattox Courthouse)
 - v. Role of Texas in the Civil War (Union blockades and the “cotton road”, Texas supply of cattle, A.J. Hamilton, E.J. Davis, Governor Sam Houston’s refusal to swear loyalty to the Confederacy, Secession of Texas)
 - vi. Abraham Lincoln (The Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, Second Inaugural Address, Lincoln’s assassination)
 - vii. Reconstruction in Texas and America (Juneteenth, 13th amendment that ended slavery, 14th amendment gave citizenship and equal rights, and the 15th amendment, Freedman’s Bureau, freedom colonies, presidential and congressional reconstruction disagreements, black codes, sharecropping, lynchings, Ku Klux Klan in Texas and United states, Compromise of 1877 and the loss of African American representation and rights at the end of Reconstruction)

7. The Gilded Age in America and Texas

- a. Interactions and influences between America and other regions of the world in the late 1800s
 - i. New waves of immigration to America and Texas (Statue of Liberty and the role of Ellis Island, Chinese and Japanese immigrants and the Chinese Exclusion Act, The Gentlemen’s Agreement e.g. Japanese rice farmers in South Houston)

- ii. Immigrants in Texas (Galveston and El Paso as entry points for immigrants, immigrant communities e.g. Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, Castroville, Shiner and Laredo, cultural traditions)
- iii. American overseas expansion (USS *Maine*, yellow journalism, The Spanish-American war and the role of Texas, Theodore Roosevelt and the service of Texan soldiers in the Rough Riders)
- iv. Important changes in Texas and America during the Gilded Age (Jim Crow Laws, *Plessy V. Ferguson*, W.E.B Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Booker T. Washington, important innovations and effects of the Second Industrial Revolution e.g. oil, electricity, steel, Transcontinental Railroad, Thomas Edison's light bulb, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, Bessemer steel process, contributions of important business owners e.g. Andrew Carnegie's U.S. steel, philanthropy, including 32 in Texas, J.P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller's work in oil, growth of Texas oil industry, rapid expansion of American cities e.g. movement of Americans from farm to cities, and immigrant settlement in cities including in Texas, monopolies or trusts, labor unions, party bosses in urban industrial life, including in Texas, creation of the Populist party among American and Texas farmers, Susan B. Anthony and Women's suffrage, Sherman Anti-Trust Act, McKinley tariff, Union leader Samuel Gompers)
- v. Creation and growth of communist ideology (Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels *Communist Manifesto*, class struggle, violent revolution, dictatorship to enforce equality, propaganda tactics including pamphlets)

8. The Texas Frontier

- a. Important changes in Texas and American frontier
 - i. important events in Westward expansion after the Civil War (American Cowboy era, Chisholm Trail, Goodnight-Loving Trail, "Cowtown", vaquero ranching traditions on the King Ranch, farming with irrigation in South Texas, cultural celebrations e.g. Fiestas Patrias, Las Posadas, and Dia de los Muertos)
 - ii. Important events in Texas and America in the history of American Indians after the Civil War

Key Topics

1. The Progressive Era

- a. Important ideas and effects of the Progressive Era in America
 - i. Minnie Fisher Cunningham and the 19th amendment
 - ii. Founders' belief in limited government and free enterprise while Progressives wanted to set rules for workers and consumers
 - iii. Theodore Roosevelt (National Park Service, Big Stick Diplomacy, and continuation of the Monroe Doctrine, Panama Canal, Pure Food and Drug Act, Meat Packing Act)
 - iv. Adina Zavala and Clara Driskell
 - v. Spindletop
 - vi. Henry Ford (assembly line, Model T)

2. World War I: United States and Texas

- a. World War I in America
 - i. Invasion of Mexico from Fort Bliss
 - ii. Artillery, machine guns, barbed wire, gas, trench warfare
 - iii. Unrestricted submarine warfare and the Zimmerman Telegram
 - iv. Liberty Bonds, Espionage and Sedition Acts
 - v. Selective Service Act and major battles in which American Doughboys, 90th Infantry or “Tough ‘Ombres”, 36th Division

3. 1920s and 1930s: United States and Texas

- a. Important events in America during the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression
 - i. The challenges for America following World War I (renewed labor union and communist activity following Russia’s Bolshevik Revolution, the subsequent Palmer Raids, and the Wall Street bombing of 1920, The spread of the Ku Klux Klan and the Tulsa Race Massacre, organized crime during prohibition)
 - ii. American economic and cultural developments during the 1920s (growing prosperity and growth in the stock market, innovations of radio, Hollywood movies, flapper culture, Art Deco architecture and style, professional sports, and the novel *The Great Gatsby*, Harlem Renaissance, jazz music, blues music including Texas blues musician Blind Lemon Jefferson, Great Migration of African Americans)
 - iii. Life during the Great Depression (bank runs, unemployment, Hoovervilles, and the threat of communist revolution, the role of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, his fireside chats e.g. radio, repatriation, mass deportations)
 - iv. The Dust Bowl
- b. The New Deal in US and Texas
 - i. How Texans worked with New Deal programs such as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
 - ii. The Hoover Dam and public works programs
 - v. The end of the gold standard and increase in government regulation
 - vi. Social Security Act and direct welfare payments

vii. Workers' rights and Frances Perkins (first female secretary of labor)

4. Communism and Other Totalitarian Regimes

- a. Important world events during the 1920s and 1930s
 - i. Communist (Bolshevik) Revolution
 - ii. Russian Civil War (the Reds and the Whites)
 - iii. One-Party dictatorship, the Red Terror and Mass Murder
 - iv. Joseph Stalin (oppression and suffering, violent land seizures, anti-religious persecution, show trials, concentration camps, forced labor, poverty, general economic deterioration, the political purge known as the Great Terror, the gulag archipelago, and the Holodomor or Ukrainian famine)
 - v. Methods communist use to spread their ideology, including propaganda, public shaming tactics, censorship, and forced conformity)
 - vi. Communist attempts to seize power in China in the 1920s and in Spain in the 1930s and their effects
 - vii. Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party of Germany (Treaty of Versailles)
 - viii. Fears of communist revolution and antisemitism, Nuremburg Laws, and *Kristallnacht*
 - ix. Reichstag Fire
- b. The immediate events that led to and started World War II
 - i. German rearmament, the militarization of Rhineland, and the seizure of Austria and Czechoslovakia
 - ii. Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact
 - iii. British and French guarantees of Polish sovereignty and the German invasion of Poland

5. World War II: United States and Texas

- a. Important events and roles of America and Texas in World War II
 - i. Japanese invasion of China
 - ii. German and Soviet invasions of Poland
 - iii. Invasion of France and the Miracle of Dunkirk
 - iv. Winston Churchill, the Battle of Britain, and the Blitz
 - v. Pearl Harbor and the Day of Infamy Speech
 - vi. Navajo and the Lakota code talkers, industrialization of the south and west, and the Bracero program
 - vii. Internment of Japanese American citizens
 - viii. Innovations in computer and weaponry
 - ix. Volunteerism and sacrifices
 - x. Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union, the Battles of Midway, the Coral Sea and Guadalcanal, D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, island-hopping, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Stalingrad
 - xi. Conferences at Yalta and Potsdam
 - xii. Manhattan project
 - xiii. War crime trial in both theaters
 - xiv. Holocaust

- xv. The Nazi regime's attempt to exterminate the Jewish people completely through systematic mass murder by execution and in concentration camps
 - b. Texas's contributions in World War II
 - i. Audie Murphy
 - ii. Chester Nimitz
 - iii. American Arsenal of Democracy e.g. through shipbuilding in Houston and the Houston ship channel, aircraft manufacturing at Fort Worth, oil refining in Port Arthur and Corpus Christi, the Permian Basin, and the new pipeline the Big Inch and Little Big Inch
 - iv. POW military bases
- 6. Post War America and Early Cold War: Western Liberty and Communist Tyranny**
- a. The Truman through the Kennedy Administration
 - i. Cold War
 - ii. Nuclear Weapons
 - iii. Iron Curtain
 - iv. The Marshall Plan, Truman Doctrine
 - v. Modern Israel's survival in the wars of 1948, 1967, and 1973 and its peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan
 - vi. Dwight Eisenhower (*Brown v. Board of Education*, interstate system, power of the military-industrial complex, Soviet Sputnik, NASA)
 - vii. John F. Kennedy (Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, Houston in America's Space program, assassination in Dallas, Texas in 1963)
- 7. Civil Rights Movement**
- a. The Civil Rights movement
 - i. Bus boycott, Rosa Parks, sit-ins, freedom rides, general civil disobedience
 - ii. Participation of Texans in the Civil Rights movement
 - iii. Barbara Jordan
 - iv. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "I have a Dream" speech
 - v. Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - vi. Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
 - vii. Civil rights for Mexican Americans
 - viii. Use of marches, boycotts, and legal cases
 - ix. American Indian Movement and the Wounded Knee Occupation
 - x. César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, Hector P. Garcia, and the American G.I. forum
 - xi. LULAC in Texas
 - b. Lyndon B. Johnson
 - i. Congressman and Senator
 - ii. First Lady Ladybird Johnson (wildflowers and bluebonnets conservation)
 - iii. Great Society programs, mass media, television, and the cultural revolution of the 1960s and early 1970s
 - iv. Internal migration, changes in American cities, the expansion of the suburbs, urban race riots, Baby Boom
 - c. Vietnam War
 - i. Pentagon Papers, Domino Theory and Containment Policy

- ii. Tonkin Gulf Resolution, Tet Offensive
 - iii. Draft and the anti-war movement
- d. Richard Nixon's presidency
 - i. Election victory, "silent majority"
 - ii. Watergate scandal
- e. Important conflicts and resolutions in which America was involved
 - i. Communist victory in Vietnam, Cambodian genocide under Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge
 - ii. Six Day War and Yom Kippur War
 - iii. Camp David Accords, Iran Hostage Crisis

8. Contemporary America and Texas

- a. End of the Cold War
 - i. Ronald Reagan
 - ii. Margaret Thatcher, Pope John Paul II
 - iii. Mikhail Gorbachev
 - iv. Lech Walesa and solidarity
- b. Major events and their effects during the 1990s
 - i. George H.W. Bush
 - ii. Post Cold-War efforts (North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA))
 - iii. The Gulf War, Saddam Hussein
- c. George W. Bush and Barack Obama presidencies
 - i. George W. Bush (September 11th World Trade Center, War on Terror, Osama Bin Laden, Al Qaeda, Iraq War)
 - ii. 2008 economic crisis and Obama's election
- d. Important innovations and their effects during the computer and technological revolution of the 2000s and 2010s
 - i. Internet, smartphone and app use, social media and big tech companies

Key Topics

1. The Days Before Contact

- a. Geography of Texas
- b. Prehistoric past of Texas and how environmental change shaped early human cultures
 - i. Early people of Texas including Paleo-Indian and Archaic cultures

2. The Age of Contact

- a. Spanish exploration and imperial competition in Texas including de Pineda, Cabeza de Vaca, Coronado

3. Spanish Colonial Period

- a. How European imperial competition, global trade, and colonization shaped early Texas
- b. René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, imperial rivalry
- c. Spanish mission system
- d. Hapsburgs to the Bourbons and the reorganization of the New Spain and its role in the American Revolution

4. Mexican National Period

- a. How Mexico's independence affected Mexican Texas
- b. Mexican independence, Enlightenment ideas, Grito de Dolores, the Mexican war for independence in Texas, Panic of 1819, Mexican Constitution of 1824, empresario system led by Moses Austin, Stephen F. Austin, Martín de León, and Green Dewitt

5. Texas Revolution and the Republic

- a. The political, economic, and military causes, course, and consequences of the Texas War for Independence
 - i. Formation of the Republic of Mexico, colonization laws, empresario system, growing tensions between Federalists and Centralists (Mier y Terán report), and Law of April 6, 1830
 - ii. Fredonian Rebellion, Turtle Bayou Resolutions, the Conventions of 1832 and 1833, Stephen F. Austin's mission to Mexico City, and the rise of Antonio López de Santa Anna
 - iii. Texas revolution (Gonzales, Siege of Béxar, the Alamo, the Convention of 1836, the Declaration of Independence, Coleto Creek, Goliad Massacre, Runaway Scrape, Battle of San Jacinto, Treaties of Velasco)
 - iv. Sam Houston, Lorenzo de Zavala, Juan Seguín, José Francisco Ruiz, Jim Bowie, José Antonio Navarro, David Crockett, William B. Travis and the role of the Texas Navy
 - v. The Texas Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the Republic of Texas
- b. The challenges of nation-building, security, diplomacy, and annexation faced by the Republic of Texas
 - i. International diplomacy of the Republic of Texas

- a. How industrialization transformed Texas’s economy, labor systems, politics, and society
 - i. Resource-based industrial growth, cotton and sharecropping; buffalo slaughter associated with J. Wright Mooar and Fort Griffin
 - ii. Cattle drives
 - iii. Ranching operations such as the Espuela, King, Matador, and XIT
 - iv. Industrial revolution in Texas
 - v. Railroad expansion
 - vi. Communication and transportation improvements
 - vii. Investment ranching and land syndicates
 - viii. Barbed wire and the widespread use of windmills
 - ix. Political reform and regulation in response to industrialization, including Jim Hogg, the Farmers’ Alliance, conflicts with railroads, creation of the Texas Railroad Commission, the temperance movement, women’s suffrage movement
 - x. Organized labor and labor conflict, including fears of socialism, the Knights of Labor, the Great Southwest Railroad Strike (1884-1886), the Thurber Strike (1903), the Galveston longshoremen’s strike (1885)
 - xi. The status of African Americans during the industrial age, including *Plessy V. Ferguson* and the rise of Jim Crow segregation
 - xii. Immigration patterns and demographic change, including Mexican, German and Czech immigration and comparisons between Texas and *National immigration trends*

9. The Age of Oil

- a. How petroleum, global markets, revolution, and world wars transformed Texas in the early and mid-twentieth century
 - i. Early oil discoveries and how they launched the oil age
 - ii. Oil boom, new fields, technological advances and the economic effects
 - iii. Texas’s integration into global trade and the significance of the Houston Ship Channel (1914) after the Galveston Hurricane of 1900
 - iv. Cultural responses to modernization
 - v. Mexican Revolution of 1910, the Porfiriato; Francisco Madero; Francisco “Pancho” Villa; Venustiano Carranza; the Pershing Expedition; and border violence such as the Plan de San Diego, the Brite Ranch Raid, and the Porvenir Massacre
 - vi. Texas’s role in *World War I* (Zimmerman Telegram; Edward M. House and Woodrow Wilson; service of the 36th and 90th Divisions; the growth of training bases; and the role of Texas oil in the Allied victory)

10. Texas in the Great Depression and World War II

- a. Life in Texas during the Great Depression and the contribution of Texans to *American victory in World War II*
 - i. Political and social change from the 1920s through the Great Depression (Ku Klux Klan; opposition by Dan Moody and Joseph Martin Dawson; the Ferguson political machine; drought and the Dust Bowl; women’s suffrage

and leaders Jane Yelvington McCallum and Annie Webb Blanton; expanded government role; the Texas Centennial Exposition

- ii. Texas in [World War II](#), including base expansion, home-front mobilization; contributions of Chester Nimitz, Earl Rudder, Samuel Dealey, units such as the 36th and 90th Divisions, the WASPs, and the Lost Battalion, POW camps; the Bracero Program; the Big Inch and Little Inch pipelines; and postwar population change

11. Texas in the 1950s and Civil Rights Era

- a. How postwar change accelerated civil rights efforts, modernization, cultural identity, and demographic transformation in Texas
 - i. Movement toward full equality, Emma Tenayuca and the pecan shellers strike; the [NAACP](#); LULAC; G.I. Forum; the Felix Longoria episode; and [court cases](#) (*Sweatt v. Painter*, *Delgado v. Bastrop ISD*, *Hernandez v. Texas*)
 - ii. Civil rights leaders (Hector P. Garcia, James L. Farmer, Lulu Belle Madison White, and Antonio Maceo Smith)
 - iii. Civil Rights milestones and resistance (*Brown v. Board of Education*, [desegregation efforts](#), and the Mansfield Texas incident e.g. Edgewood v. Kirby)
 - iv. Modernization, including petroleum expansion, industrial growth, urbanization, and population increases driven in part by the Farm Labor Supply Program
 - v. National attention and criticism of Texas, including Edna Ferber, external views of Dallas and Houston, John Bainbridge's *The Super Americans*, and Neiman Marcus's influence on fashion and taste
 - vi. Physical and environmental change, including reservoirs, highways, airports, military expansion, and drought
 - vii. Popular culture and leisure, including Disney's interest in Texas, the Davy Crockett craze, tourism growth, John Wayne's *The Alamo*
- b. How Texas leaders and national events of the 1960s reshaped government, civil rights, culture, and politics in Texas
 - i. The political career and presidency of Lyndon Baines Johnson, including succession after John F. Kennedy's assassination, [the Cold War](#), [the Space Race](#), and [Vietnam War](#)
 - ii. [The Great Society goals and legislation](#) ([Civil Rights Act of 1964](#), [Voting Rights Act of 1965](#), [social welfare initiatives](#) [environmental legislation](#))
 - iii. The life, career, and significance of Barbara Jordan
 - iv. Social and cultural change in the 1960s, new landmarks (Astrodome, Tower of the Americas), professional sports (Dallas Cowboys, Houston Oilers), the Austin music scene, suburbanization and white flight, oil decline and OPEC competition, Republican resurgence, the moon landing, Vietnam-era impacts including Vietnamese immigration and Texas military service
 - v. Other civil rights and identity movements (Women's movement, La Raza Unida, Chicano Movement)

12. Contemporary Texas

- a. How energy, politics, culture, migration, and economic change shaped Texas from 1970s to the present and inform future trends
 - i. Global politics and oil conservation, Arab-Israeli conflicts such as the Yom Kippur War, Oil Embargo, revitalization of the Texas oil industry, and conservation associated with Dolph Brisco
 - ii. The creation and projection of the Texas image through media and literature (*Dallas, Lonesome Dove, Friday Night Lights*)
 - iii. Modern political change, rise and presidencies of George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; shifting Democratic and Republican control; leadership Anne Richards and Bill Clements; debates over “Blue Texas” and “Red Texas”
 - iv. Demographic change and migration, including internal migration from other U.S. states and international migration
 - v. Populations (The Texas Triangle)

13. The Influence of American Founding Documents and Principles

- a. How American founding documents and political principles influenced the development of Texas government, law, and civic culture
 - i. How these ideas shaped Texas political thought and language in the Texas Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of 1836, and other revolutionary-era documents and speeches
 - ii. How principles from the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights influenced the structure of Texas Constitutions (including 1845 and 1876), especially in the areas of separation of powers, individual rights, local control, and limits on executive authority
 - iii. How Texans have invoked American founding principles over time (debates about slavery and secession, Reconstruction, civil rights, and modern conflicts over federalism and state sovereignty) to justify, challenge or reform political and legal institutions in Texas

World Geography Studies

Key Topics

1. Major Themes in World Geography

- a. Physical Geography
- b. Earth–Sun relationships
- c. Major types and patterns of landforms, climates, ecosystems, biomes, natural resources
- d. History of geography and tools of cartography
- e. Archeology
- f. How different civilizations have sought to improve the well-being of their people by modifying or adapting to their environments
- g. Demography (Birth and death rates, Fertility, Life expectancy, Population density patterns, Demographic Transition Model e.g. Population Pyramids and Dependency ratios)
- h. Migration Patterns
- i. How geography affects economic developments (Agriculture, Domesticated animals, Industrialization)
 - i. Trading goods (e.g. foodstuffs, salt, timber, metals, pottery)
 - World Trade Patterns,
 - ii. Human Development Index (HDI) (e.g. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), GDP per capita, Literacy rates)
 - iii. Urbanization (e.g. rural, suburban, urban)
- j. How geography affects technological innovations (e.g. Metallurgy, Agricultural tools, Navigational improvements, weapons)
- k. How geography affects warfare (e.g. Barriers Strategic locations, Environmental factors, Natural resources as a means of war, Natural resources as an end of war)
 - i. Corridors (e.g. straits, mountain passes, fords)
- l. How geography affects transportation, communication, military operations, and the spread of civilizations, religions and philosophies, and technologies

2. Regions of Study

- a. North America including Texas
- b. South and Central America
- c. Sub-Saharan Africa
- d. Southwest Asia and North Africa
- e. Central and South Asia
- f. Southeast Asia and Oceania
- g. North and East Asia
- h. Europe

**Regions in this section will include all geography themes listed above.*

World History Studies

Key Topics

1. Origins and River Valley Civilizations

- a. Origins of humanity and the history of ancient Southwest Asian and Northwest African civilizations (Origins of human beings in Africa through the Neolithic Age, Major characteristics of civilizations, ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, ancient Levant)

2. Classical World and Foundational Ideas

- a. Roots of Western Civilization in ancient Israel (ancient Israelites, Judaism, Decalogue, History of Kingdoms of Israel, Changes in Judaism from 500 BC to 200 AD)
- b. Roots of Western Civilization in ancient Greece (Greece's foundational role in Western political ideals and institutions e.g. Athens and Sparta, Important achievements of Greek Civilizations)
 - i. Causes, course, and consequences of political and military events e.g. Persian Wars, Peloponnesian Wars, Hellenistic empires and the spread of Greek culture
- c. Roots of Western Civilization in ancient Rome (The Roman Republic, Roman Republic's contribution to the development of republican self-government, growth and long life of the Roman Empire, Fall of the Roman Empire, Contributions of Roman civilization)
- d. Roots of Western Civilization in Christianity.
 - i. Christianity (e.g. Belief in Old and New Testaments, Early expansion of Christianity)
 - ii. Constantine (e.g. Legalization of Christianity in the Roman empire, First Council of Nicaea, Origins, meanings, and effects in history of the Nicene Creed)
- e. Ancient Indian and Chinese Civilizations
 - i. Significant aspects of Indian and Chinese beliefs (e.g. Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism)
 - ii. Important political, economic, and cultural aspects of Indian history (e.g. Monsoon agriculture, Maurya and Gupta empires, Indian mathematics)
 - iii. Important political, economic, and cultural aspects of the Qin, Han, and Tang dynasties (e.g. Conquest of Southern China, Buddhism) and Technological inventions (e.g. compass, gunpowder, printing)

3. Faith, Empires, and Medieval Transformations

- a. Early Middle Ages in Europe (476-1000)
 - i. Byzantine history (e.g. Code of Justinian)
 - ii. Survival of Roman civilization

- iii. Growth and influence of Catholic Christianity in medieval society (e.g. Monasteries)
 - iv. Islam's founding and central features (e.g. Qur'an, Islamic Golden Age)
 - v. Latin West to Viking Era (e.g. Charles Martel, Charlemagne, Holy Roman Empire)
- b. High Middle Ages in Europe from 1000-1300
- i. Schism between Orthodoxy and Catholicism (1054)
 - ii. Political Developments (e.g. Norman Conquest, Spain and Reconquista, Crusades)
 - iii. Religious and intellectual developments (e.g. Roman and canon law)
 - iv. Technological, military, and economic developments (e.g. Windmills and watermills, Armored knights and crossbows)
 - v. Medieval European culture (e.g. Architecture - Romanesque, Gothic)
- c. Indian and Chinese civilizations from 1000-1700.
- i. Key aspects of Indian history (e.g. Mughal empire, Indo-Persian culture)
 - ii. Key aspects of Chinese history (Scientific inventions, Mongol conquest)
- d. Late Middle Ages from 1300-1450)
- i. Developments in medieval English legal and constitutional history (Common law, Parliament, Habeas corpus, Private property rights)
 - ii. Political, religious, military, technological, social, and economic developments (Great Schism, Black Death, 100 Years War, Gunpowder, cannon, disciplined infantry)
 - iii. Decline of Byzantium in the 14th and 15th centuries (Rise of the Ottoman Empire, Capture of Constantinople in 1453)

4. Renaissance to Global Interaction

- a. Renaissance and the Reformation.
- i. Origins and development of the Renaissance (e.g. Johannes Gutenberg and the printing press)
 - ii. Origins and effects of the Protestant Reformation (e.g. Martin Luther)
 - iii. Purposes and policies of the Catholic Counter-Reformation (e.g. Missionary evangelization)
 - iv. Politics and religion in the wars among European nations in the 16th and 17th centuries (e.g. Spanish Armada)
- b. Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment.
- i. Scientific Revolution and the scientific method (e.g. Francis Bacon, Nicolaus Copernicus, Johannes Kepler, Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton)
 - ii. Technological improvements that helped economic development (e.g. Crop rotation, Transport improvements (turnpikes, lighthouses, canals, Materials innovations, cement, porcelain, glassware)
 - iii. Key ideas of the Enlightenment (e.g. Natural rights)
 - iv. Key aspects of European religion in the eighteenth century

- c. Political developments in Europe from 1500-1800 (Consolidation of political power in nation-states ruled by monarchs, Rise of Russian Empire, England's intensifying fiscal and commercial innovation)
 - i. Causes, key events, and consequences of the rise of English liberty (e.g. English Civil War, Glorious Revolution, English Bill of Rights)

5. American Civilizations and European Conflicts

- a. Pre-Columbian civilizations in the Americas (Geography of major pre-Columbian civilizations and empires in the Americas; Politics, society, and culture of major pre-Columbian civilizations and empires in the Americas)
 - i. Key political, economic, and cultural aspects of Mesoamerica 1300-1520 (e.g. Aztec arrival in Mexico's central valley, Aztec wars and dominance of the region)
- b. European expansion from 1500-1800.
 - i. Why and how Europe sent explorers westward (e.g. Columbus and others)
 - ii. New World slavery and other slave regimes:
 - Forced-labor regimes (e.g. Islamic, African, and American Indian slavery, Russian serfdom)
 - Atlantic slave trade
 - iii. European expansion of empires (e.g. Spain in the Americas)

6. Revolution, Industry, Empire, and the Rise of Liberty

- a. Causes, events, and effects of the French Revolution.
 - i. French Revolution (e.g. Enlightenment political thought)
 - ii. Key events of the French Revolution (e.g. Bastille, Execution of Louis XVI)
 - iii. Key effects of the French Revolution
 - iv. Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars
- b. Industrial Revolution and social and political change from 1800–1914
 - i. Industrial Revolution (e.g. Factories, New energy sources, coal)
 - ii. Intellectual, legal, and cultural causes of the Industrial Revolution (e.g. Adam Smith)
 - iii. Industrial Revolution's social and economic benefits
 - iv. Industrial Revolution's social and economic costs
- c. Political characteristics of nineteenth-century England (Suffrage reform, The birth of the Labour Party)
 - i. Nineteenth-century France (e.g. Cycles between empire and republics)
 - ii. Causes, course, and consequences of the unifications of Italy and Germany
 - iii. Causes, course, and consequences of Russia's partially successful nineteenth-century reforms (e.g. Serf emancipation (1861), Revolutionary movements)
 - iv. European culture and religion in the 19th century (e.g. Nationalism and Romanticism)

- d. Imperial Expansion (Nineteenth-century Latin America e.g. Napoleonic invasion of Spain and Independence of the Latin American republics, Apogee of the British Raj, Nineteenth-century East Asia, Nineteenth-century Africa)

7. The Cold War, Decolonization, and Global Institutions

- a. Europe from 1945-1991.
 - i. Key events of the Cold War
 - ii. Western Europe's postwar history (e.g. Marshall Plan, American-led free trade system, European Union)
 - iii. Key causes of the USSR's decay (e.g. Lech Walesa)
 - iv. Final collapse of the Soviet empire (e.g. Fall of the Berlin Wall)
 - v. Continuing European contributions to culture, science, and technology
 - vi. Key aspects of European religion
- b. World events and developments from 1945-1991.
 - i. History of China (e.g. the Communist Revolution (1949), Great Leap Forward (mass famine), Cultural Revolution (Jiang Qing, Red Guards, labor camps))
- c. History of postwar Japan (e.g. Diplomatic and military alliance with the United States, Explosive technological and economic growth)
- d. History of India and Pakistan (e.g. British Raj's end, Partition of India)
- e. Major events of the European retreat from empire (e.g. Fall of apartheid in South Africa, Nelson Mandela)

8. Terrorism and Globalization

- a. World history since the fall of the Soviet Union to 2016.
 - i. Europe's history since 1991 (e.g. European Union and NATO)
 - ii. China's history since Mao's death (e.g. Tiananmen Square Massacre, Rise to great power rivalry with the USA)
 - iii. Rise of Islamic fundamentalism (e.g. Iranian Revolution, Terrorism (Al Qaeda))
 - iv. America's response to the 9-11 terrorist attack (e.g. Iraq and Afghanistan wars)
 - v. Contemporary Global Trends

United States History Studies

(Pre-Columbian to 2016)

Key Topics

1. Exploration

- a. The pre-Columbian peoples of North America (Earliest migrations, Technologies available to American Indians)
 - i. Heterogeneous American Indian tribes (e.g. Social and political organizations, spirituality, culture)
- b. Exploration (French, Spanish, Dutch, and Swedish)
 - i. European adaptations to American Indian culture

2. Colonial Life and Government

- a. English colonies in North America
 - i. Virginia settlement (e.g. Jamestown colony, House of Burgesses, and Indentured servitude and slavery)
 - ii. Plymouth Colony (e.g. Mayflower Compact)
 - iii. English colonies' self-rule
 - iv. English religious inheritance
 - v. English political inheritance (e.g. common law, juries, and militia service)
 - vi. English colonies' wars (e.g. American Indian wars, French wars, American Indian displacements after defeat in war)
 - vii. Society and culture in colonial America (e.g. Scots Irish and German immigration)
 - viii. Colonial Colleges
 - ix. First Great Awakening

3. American Revolution

- a. Political and economic factors that contributed to the American Revolution (French and Indian War and the role of George Washington, Overhaul of British Imperial policy from 1763 to 1775, Widespread ownership of property that fostered local self-government)
 - i. Historical and intellectual influences on the American Revolution and the new American government (e.g. Bible, Greek and Roman thought, Protestant political theory, English common law, Enlightenment philosophy)
 - ii. Influence and ideas of key Americans (e.g. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Samuel Adams)
 - iii. Origins, meanings, and effects in history of the Declaration of Independence
 - iv. British policies and American resistance before 1775
 - v. The Revolutionary War and the reasons for the American victory and the British defeat

- vi. The role of individual patriots during the Revolutionary Era
- b. Adoption of the Constitution (e.g. Articles of Confederation (1781), Shay's Rebellion 1786-1787)
 - i. Northwest Ordinance (1787) (e.g. Prohibiting slavery in territories north of Ohio River)
 - ii. Constitutional Convention (e.g. James Madison, Connecticut Compromise or The Great Compromise, Rights of individuals and states, Slavery)
 - iii. Debate over the ratification
 - iv. Arguments of key Federalists
 - v. Arguments of key Anti-Federalists
 - vi. Federalist Papers (including 10, 39, 51, 68, 70, 78)
 - vii. Bill of Rights

4. New Nation

- a. Presidencies of George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson (e.g. Alien and Sedition Acts, Barbary War, Jefferson Embargo, Washington's Farewell Address, Louisiana Purchase of 1803)
- b. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall (e.g. *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), judicial review)
- c. Political developments which weakened or strengthened slavery during the founding generation
- d. War of 1812
- e. Emergence of a national American culture

5. National Expansion and Reform

- a. National Expansion and Reform (Era of Good Feelings, Monroe Doctrine, Rising levels of political participation and the expansion of suffrage in antebellum America, Andrew Jackson's presidency)
 - i. Westward expansion (e.g. Texas Revolution, Idea of Manifest Destiny, Mexican American War, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, California Gold Rush)
 - ii. Contribution of America's expansion to the Civil War
- b. Antebellum Economy, Society, and Culture (Transportation Revolution, Industrial Growth, Major scientific discoveries and technological innovations)
 - i. Southern slavery (e.g. Cotton gin and its effect on the economics of slavery, Domestic slave trade and westward expansion of slavery, Slave life on plantations and farms across the South)
 - ii. American education
 - iii. Religious trends (e.g. Second Great Awakening)
 - iv. Antebellum women's suffrage movement (e.g. 1848 Seneca Falls convention, Susan B Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton)
 - v. National American culture (e.g. Literature, Art, and Music)

6. Sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction

- a. Abolitionist movement
- b. North and South's different economies and cultures (e.g. Role of slavery as the main cause of the divisions and eventual war)
- c. Key developments leading to the Civil War (e.g. Fugitive Slave Act 1850, Lincoln-Douglas Debates 1858)
- d. Geography of Civil War
- e. Abraham Lincoln (e.g. Emancipation Proclamation 1863)
- f. Roles and policies of Civil War leaders (e.g. Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee)
- g. Key Civil War battles and events
- h. Advantages that led to Union Victory
- i. Major effects of the Civil War
- j. Presidential and Radical Reconstruction
- k. Jim Crow laws (Black Codes)

7. Rise of Industrial America

- a. Rise of Industrial America (Economy, religion, and culture)
 - i. Late 19th and early 20th century Immigration
 - ii. Westward migration after the Civil War and its effect on the American Indians
 - iii. Formation and goals of trade unions and third political parties during the Industrial era
 - iv. America's growing role in world affairs from the Civil War to 1914 (e.g. Purchase of Alaska from Russia, America's growing influence in Hawaii leading to annexation, the Spanish-American War)
- b. Panama Canal

8. Progressive Era and World War I

- a. Origins of Progressivism and important proponents and opponents of Progressive reforms
- b. Gilded Age Reforms and Progressive policies
- c. Post-Civil War struggles of African Americans and women to retain and gain basic civil rights
- d. American foreign policy during and after World War I
- e. America's economic and military contribution to Allied victory in World War I

9. Interwar Period

- a. Domestic Issues in 1918 – 1929 (Post War radical unrest and the birth of the American Communist Party, Ku Klux Klan and lynchings, Black Wall Street/Tulsa Race Riots, Scopes Trial, Prohibition, Immigration and national immigration debates)
 - i. Causes and consequences of the global depression of the 1930s
 - ii. American culture and religion between 1914 and 1939 (e.g. Harlem Renaissance)

10. World War II

- a. World War II geography

- b. Contributions of Axis aggression to the start of World War II (Fascism in Germany and Italy, German and Japanese aggression)
- c. Major battles and events
- d. Military contribution of important individuals and military units
- e. Key domestic events (Women and minorities in workforce, Bracero Program)
- f. America's patriotic wartime culture

11. Post war United States

- a. Factors that contributed to the Cold War
- b. Diplomatic and military policies of Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon (Cuban Missile Crisis)
- c. Korean War and Vietnam War
- d. Domestic Cold War trends (Baby boom, GI Bill)
- e. Presidents Truman and Eisenhower
- f. Domestic anticommunism
- g. Civil Rights movements (African American, Mexican American)
- h. Space Race;
- i. Great Society
- j. The conservative movement

12. The Modern Era

- a. Ronald Reagan
- b. End of Cold War (Fall of the Berlin Wall and Soviet Empire)
- c. Key events of the Bush (I), Clinton, Bush (II), and Obama presidencies (9/11)
- d. Major economic and social trends
 - i. Computer revolution
 - ii. Mass immigration and demographic changes (e.g. Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965)
 - iii. Falling real wages for many workers
 - iv. Weakened nuclear family
- e. American religion since 1945
- f. American culture between 1945 and 2016 (Internet, Social media)

1. History of Economic Thought

- a. Relationship of virtue, character, and individual economic endeavor in historical philosophies
- b. Mercantilism/economic nationalism
- c. Classical economics:
- d. Socialism/communism
- e. John Stuart Mill's conception of marginal analysis
- f. Neoclassical economics
- g. Keynesian economics
- h. Chicago school of economics (Monetarism)
- i. Austrian economics
- j. Relationship between economic and political freedom

2. Scarcity and Opportunity Cost (Micro)

- a. Types of capital and why they are necessary for the production of goods and services
- b. Definition of opportunity
- c. Choices made by producers and consumers when they confront the condition of scarcity
 - i. What to produce
 - ii. How to produce
 - iii. For whom to produce
 - iv. Which involve opportunity cost and tradeoffs
- d. Interest rates
- e. Production possibilities curve

3. Supply, Demand and Markets (Micro)

- a. Supply and Demand
- b. Say's Law (Jean-Baptiste Say)
- c. Buyers and Sellers determining roles
 - i. Equilibrium price
- d. Prices
 - i. Relative scarcity
- e. Price elasticity
- f. Profit in the market economy
- g. Business structure
 - i. Economic institutions in market economies
 - ii. Monopoly
 - iii. Oligopoly
 - iv. Pure competition
 - v. Market process
 - vi. Competition

4. Decision and Game Theory (Micro)

- a. The theory of the firm
 - i. Law of diminishing returns
- b. Game Theory
 - i. Short-run one-off game
 - ii. Prisoner's Dilemma game
 - iii. Long-run games

5. Microeconomics of Public Policy (Micro)

- a. Public goods and services
- b. Laws and regulations adopted in the United States to promote competition among firms
- c. Government wages and price controls
- d. Moral hazard problem
- e. "Natural" monopolies
- f. Taxation types
- g. Subsidiary

6. Money and Monetary Policy (Macro)

- a. Basic functions of money
- b. Attributes of money
- c. Federal Reserve System
- d. Price stability
- e. Full employment
- f. Monetary tools
 - a. Discount rate
 - b. Reserve requirements
 - c. Money supply
- g. Consumer services available from financial institutions
 - a. Credit
 - b. Savings
 - c. Investment
- h. Differing modern approaches to monetary policy

7. Fiscal Policy (Macro)

- a. Major revenue and expenditures categories
- b. Effects of changes in federal spending and taxation
 - a. Budget deficits and surpluses
 - b. National debt
- c. Government policy
 - a. Taxation
- d. Differing modern approaches to fiscal policy

8. National Statistics and Economic Measurement (Macro)

- a. Measures
 - i. Aggregate supply and aggregate demand
 - ii. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

- iii. Economic Growth
- iv. Unemployment
- v. Underemployment
- vi. Inflation and its causes
- vii. Means of calculation
 - Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
 - Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)
 - Economic growth
 - Unemployment
 - Underemployment
 - Inflation
 - Imprecision in economic measurement
- b. Factors in country's overall level of income, employment, and prices

9. Business Cycle (Macro)

- a. Entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial ventures and their effects
- b. Calculated risk
- c. Creative destruction
- d. Comparison with centralized capital spending
- e. Productivity
 - i. Factors in productivity increases
 - ii. Factors in worker earnings
 - iii. Technology advances

10. Public Choice Theory (Macro)

- a. Public choice theory
- b. Application of economic principles to analyze government decision-making
- c. Government officials as rationale actors

11. International Economics and the United States (Macro)

- a. Advantages of trade and the concept of comparative advantage
- b. Consequences of trade
- c. Trade barriers
- d. Balance of trade
- e. Labor productivity trends
- f. Exchange rates

12. Benefits of the Free Enterprise System

- a. Voluntary exchange
 - i. Comparing economic systems (traditional, market, command, mixed) to economic questions
- b. Property rights
 - i. Intellectual property protections
 - ii. Consumer sovereignty
 - iii. Competitive nature of free enterprise
 - iv. Definition of free enterprise
 - v. Costs of government policies

- vi. Central planning
- vii. Historical experiences of economic development (USA, USSR, China, Japan, India)
- viii. Examples of decisions to override free markets (anti-trust policies, utility regulation, historical preservation, other examples of public and non-excludable goods)

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United States Government

Key Topics

1. Historical Roots and Founding Documents of the Constitutional Republic

- a. Different forms of government
- b. Contributions to America's core ideals
 - a. Religion
 - b. Colonial Era ideas on self-government
- c. Relation of religion to civic virtue
 - a. Northwest Ordinance
 - b. Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation 1789
 - c. Washington's Farewell Address 1796
- d. Limited Government
 - a. Enumerated powers
 - b. Identification of natural rights in the Declaration of Independence as "the laws of nature and of nature's God"
- e. Rule of law and preservation of liberty
- f. Vertical hierarchy of laws
- g. Grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence
- h. Events that led to the writing, ratification, and implementation of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- i. Major features of the revolutionary-era state constitutions
 - a. Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia
- j. Key events that led to the establishment of a secure Republican order
 - a. Colonial charters
 - b. Actions of the First Congress
 - c. Election of 1800
- k. Natural Law and Natural Rights
 - a. Locke and Blackstone
- l. Key principles in the Declaration of Independence
- m. Seven articles of the Constitution
- n. Principles of the Constitution
- o. Principles of the Bill of Rights
- p. Federalist and Anti-Federalist debates
 - a. Federalist papers 10, 51, 78
 - b. Brutus 1

2. American Political Culture

- a. Embodiment of Founding American Principles
 - a. Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America
 - b. Frederick Douglass' "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" and "What the Black Man Wants"
 - c. First Lincoln-Douglas debate
 - d. Martin Luther King Jr. "I have a Dream"

- e. Ronald Reagan's "A Time for Choosing"
 - b. Robert's Rules of Order
- 3. Three Branches of Federal Government (Legislative, Executive, Judicial)**
- a. Structure and functions of the legislative branch
 - b. Structure and functions of the executive branch
 - c. Structure and functions of the judicial branch
 - d. Enumerated responsibilities of the federal government
 - e. Role of the Electoral College
 - f. Requirements of individuals to hold major offices under the Constitution
- 4. Federalism**
- a. Type of Republican governments
 - b. Government powers
 - c. Vertical hierarchy of law
 - d. Effects of the 17th amendment (direct election of Senators) on the federalist structure of government
 - e. Historical and contemporary conflicts over the respective roles of national and state governments
 - f. Texas state and local governments
 - a. Executive branch
 - b. Legislative branch
 - c. Judicial branch
 - d. Local government
 - g. Role and power of state and local governments
 - h. Categories of spending in Texas government
 - i. Eligibility requirements for individuals to hold public office in Texas
- 5. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**
- a. Freedoms and rights protected and secured by each amendment in the Bill of Rights
 - b. U.S. Supreme Court Interpretations of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution
 - a. *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*
 - b. *Miranda v. Arizona*
 - c. *Dobbs v. Jackson's Women's Health Organization*
 - d. *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*.
 - e. *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*
 - f. *Texas v. Johnson*
- 6. Administrative State**
- a. Twentieth century growth of the federal government
 - b. Delegation of powers and separation of powers
 - c. Purpose of selected independent federal executive agencies and regulatory commissions
 - a. Federal Reserve System
 - b. Environmental Protection Agency
 - d. Statutes and judicial decisions concerning administrative law
 - a. Administrative Procedure Act (1946)

- b. Chevron Deference (1984)
- c. Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo (2024)
- e. Twentieth century growth of the Texas state government

7. Modern Campaigns, Elections, Media, Political Parties and Participation

- a. Roles and responsibilities of citizens in the United States
- b. Two-party system and the role of third parties in the United States
- c. How political districts are crafted
- d. The voting process and election laws in Texas

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Personal Financial Literacy (PFL)

Key Topics

1. Fundamental Concepts of Economics Related to PFL

- a. Scarcity
- b. Opportunity costs
- c. Supply and demand (Pricing)
- d. Understanding Free enterprise
- e. Appreciation and depreciation

2. Earning Income

- a. Compensation for a job can come in the form of wages, salaries, commissions, tips or bonuses and can include additional employee benefits
 - i. Costs and Benefits of Investing in Additional Education or Training
 - ii. Different Types of Jobs
 - iii. Labor Market Conditions
 - iv. Impact of Technological Advances
 - v. Economic Downturn
 - vi. Gross, Net and Taxable income
 - vii. Taxes and Spending Habits
 - viii. Levels of Government that Collect Tax Revenue
 - ix. Reporting Income
 - x. Tax Credit and Tax Deduction
 - xi. Multiple Sources of Income in retirement
 - xii. Employer-sponsored Retirement Plan
 - xiii. Costs and Benefits of Gig Employment

3. Spending and Planning

- a. Budgets help people achieve financial goals by allocating income to necessary and desired spending and saving
 - i. Cost of Living
 - ii. Short-term and Long-term Financial Goals
 - iii. Fixed and Variable Expenses
 - iv. Budgeting Tools
 - v. Durable Good
 - vi. Inflation
 - vii. Negotiation and Pre-purchase Research
 - viii. Social Media Marketing and Advertising
 - ix. Renting Versus Buying a Home
 - x. Rental Contracts
 - xi. Donations
 - xii. Consumer Fraud
 - xiii. Financial Record-keeping
 - xiv. Financial Technology Options

4. Savings and Investing

- a. Financial institutions offer several types of savings accounts with different parameters and investment risk tolerance depends on a variety of factors
 - i. Savings Accounts, Money Market Accounts and CDs
 - ii. Interest Rates
 - iii. Market Conditions
 - iv. Federal Bonds
 - v. Regulating Financial Institutions and Solvency
 - vi. IRAs, Roth IRAs and Education Savings Accounts
 - vii. “Opt in” versus “Opt out” plans
 - viii. Health Savings Account and High-deductible Health Plans
 - ix. Personal Risk Tolerance
 - x. Small-company Stocks, Large-company Stocks, Corporate Bonds and Treasury Bonds
 - xi. Mutual Funds
 - xii. Nominal and Real Returns
 - xiii. Minimum Account Balances
 - xiv. Hiring a Professional Financial Planner
 - xv. Compounding Interest

5. Credit and Debt

- a. The purpose of credit scores and credit reports and how they are used by lenders and the cost of credit in terms of interest rates
 - i. A free copy of a credit report
 - ii. Debt management
 - iii. Bankruptcy
 - iv. Payday loans can create a cycle of debt (e.g. Predatory Lending, Installment plans)
 - v. Adjustable-rate and fixed-rate mortgages
 - vi. Post-secondary education and the role of FAFSA
 - vii. Postsecondary options for college and career

6. Risk Management and Insurance

- a. Variances in risk tolerance and insurance costs
- b. Different types of insurance
 - i. Unemployment programs
 - ii. Medicaid and Medicare
 - iii. Insurance fraud
 - iv. Identity theft
 - v. Extended warranties

7. Entrepreneurship and Business Structures

- a. Entrepreneurship and business structures in a free enterprise system
 - i. Sole Proprietorship
 - ii. Partnership
 - iii. Limited Liability
 - iv. LLC
 - v. Corporation

vi. Revenue and profit as a business owner

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Sociology

Key Topics

1. What is Sociology?

- a. The development field of sociology
 - i. Central concepts of sociology
 - ii. Different sociological perspectives
 - iii. Leading sociologists in the field of social science
 - iv. Types of societies that exist in the world today
- b. Leading sociological ideas from the 19th century
 - i. Sociological ideas of August Comte
 - ii. Sociological ideas of Karl Marx
 - iii. Sociological ideas of Emile Durkheim
 - iv. Sociological ideas and concepts of Max Weber
- c. Sociological thinkers from the 20th century
 - i. Sociological ideas of Talcott Parsons
 - ii. Sociological ideas of W.E.B. DuBois
 - iii. Sociological ideas of C. Wright Mills
 - iv. Sociological ideas of Robert Michels
 - v. Sociological ideas of James Burnham
- d. Culture in society and its different forms
 - i. Elements of culture
 - ii. Ways society and culture can be studied
 - iii. Subcultures and what makes them unique
 - iv. Types of groups

2. Sociological Research

- a. Scientific process of studying the social world
 - i. Scientific steps social scientists use
 - ii. Research methods employed to investigate the social world
- b. Role of ethics in sociological research
 - i. Ethical obligations of social scientists
 - ii. Sociological research and value neutrality
- c. Describe the functionalist view of society
 - i. Collective conscience and social integration
 - ii. Mechanical solidarity, organic solidarity, and anomie

- iii. Manifest and latent functions
- d. The conflict view of society
 - i. Marxist base and superstructure theory on the economy and society
 - ii. Class conflict, capitalism and alienation
- e. Rational choice theory (utilitarianism)
 - i. Rational choice and human behavior
 - ii. Social exchange and social order
 - iii. Max Weber's iron cage
- f. Symbolic interactionism
 - i. Symbolic meanings and social interactions
 - ii. George Herbert Mead and Herbert Blumer and symbolic interactionism

3. Society and social interaction

- a. Difference between pre-industrial, industrial, and post-industrial societies
 - i. Difference between types of societies
 - ii. How society evolves and cause and effect of social and institutional change
- b. Social construction of reality
 - i. Terminology associated with social construction of reality
 - ii. Role theory and construction of reality
 - iii. Erving Goffman's dramaturgical analysis

4. Socialization

- a. Concepts and process of how people are socialized in society
 - i. Meaning of the "self" as a sociological concept
 - ii. Stages of child socialization
 - iii. Concept of agency and its role in constructing the individual
- b. Importance of social group agents
 - i. Agents of socialization
 - ii. Terminology associated with socialization across the life course

5. Groups and organization

- a. Types of groups and its function in everyday life
 - i. Types of groups
 - ii. How groups serve emotional and expressive needs
- b. Size influences group dynamics
 - i. Differences between a dyad and a triad
 - ii. Group leadership and concepts associated with the function and styles of leadership
 - iii. Concepts associated with the structure and function of bureaucracies

6. Government and Politics

- a. Power, government and authority
 - i. Lord Acton and “Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely”
 - ii. Nature of power in social life
 - iii. Terminology related to modern political life
 - iv. Three distinct types of authority (traditional, charismatic, and rational-legal)
- b. Direct and representative democracy
 - i. Anarchy
 - ii. Direct (participatory) democracy and representative government
- c. Economic models of free enterprise and socialism
 - i. Free enterprise system
 - ii. Socialism

7. Social Capital

- a. Social capital and how it facilitates action and achieves goals
 - i. Leading scholars in the field of social capital
 - ii. Social capital as a resource embedded
 - iii. Robert Putnam’s view on the civic value of social capital
- b. Social capital advances and individual and community well-being

- i. Individual's access to social network and access to resources
- ii. Value of networks

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Psychology

Key Topics

1. Origins of Psychology and Major Modern Psychological Theories

- a. The concept of the soul in ancient Scriptures, classical authors, and modern philosophers
- b. Unique contributions of pioneers in empirical psychology
- c. Effects of the cognitive revolution in psychology
- d. The computational theory of mind and its critics

2. Psychological Research

- a. Basic methods of social scientific reasoning
- b. Standards of the American Psychological Association (APA) for ethical decision making regarding the collection, storage, and use of psychological data
- c. Measures of central tendency (mean, median, and mode) and dispersion (range and standard deviation).
- d. The replication crisis, including false positives, statistical error, publication bias, confirmation bias
- e. Psychology as a science

3. Biological Basis of Psychology

- a. The anatomy of the nervous system (central and peripheral) and the endocrine system and their effects on psychological development and behavior.
- b. Methods of evolutionary psychology
- c. Psychological mechanisms as products of natural selection

4. Philosophical Psychology

- a. Plato's theory, including the soul's immortality
- b. Aristotle's theory of soul as forms
- c. Modern mind/body dualism
- d. Materialism and arguments for it
- e. The freedom of 'the will'

5. The Five Senses, Perception, and Cognition

- a. Sensation and Perception
- b. Cognition

6. Development, Learning and Intelligence

- a. The nature versus nurture debate.
- b. Influence of physical development and of the caregiver on the individual.
- c. Cognitive development according to Jean Piaget
- d. Erik Erikson's stages of psychosocial development
- e. Principles of operant and classical conditioning and social learning.
- f. Intelligence and its measurement

7. Personality, Motivation, and Emotion

- a. Definition of 'personality'
- b. Theories of personality, including psychodynamic, trait, humanistic, and sociocultural

- c. Personality assessment tools
- d. Current theories of motivation and emotion

8. Health, Wellness, and the Mind

- a. Common forms of mental illness and of psychiatric therapy
- b. Positive Psychology

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