Unit 05: Public Policy

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **AP US Gov & Pol**
Time Period: **Semester 1**
Length: **3 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Standards

6.2.12.EconGE.6.a	Evaluate efforts of governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations to address economic imbalances, social inequalities, climate change, health and/or illiteracy.
6.2.12.EconGE.6.b	Assess the role government monetary policies, central banks, international investment, and exchange rates play in maintaining stable regional and global economies.
	Economic globalization affects economic growth, labor markets, human rights guarantees, the environment, resource allocation, income distribution, and culture.
6.3.12.CivicsPD.1	Develop plan for public accountability and transparency in government related to a particular issue(s) and share the plan with appropriate government officials.
6.3.12.HistorySE.1	Analyze the impact of current governmental practices and laws affecting national security and/or First Amendment rights and privacy (e.g., immigration, refugees, seizure of personal property, juvenile detention, listening devices, deportation, religion in schools).
6.3.12.HistoryCA.12	Analyze a current foreign policy issue by considering current and historical perspectives, examining strategies, and presenting possible actions.

Enduring Understandings

Since our founding, political, social, economic and diplomatic policies have shaped the lives of all Americans.

Government institutions and political forces determine public policy.

- Students will determine, through media literacy skills and lateral, close reading strategies when evaluating primary and secondary resources the following: 1. context of the text; 2. reason for the text; 3. type of source the text is; 4. the point of view of the author of the text 5. the intended audience for the text 6. evaluate the stance of the text
- Students will use Historical Thinking Skills to evaluate sources and ideas. Comparison, Contextualization, Continuity and Change over Time, Periodization, Synthesis, Claims, Point of View, Intended Audience, and Purpose.
- Students will observe, note, and draw conclusions with the understanding that there are multiple perspectives. Multiple perspectives is the foundation to understanding the why and how of history. Documents, primary sources, historical readings will be evaluated.

Essential Questions

How have societal forces influenced policy making decisions throughout our history?

What has necessistated the creation of so many new policies throughout the 20th and 21st centuries?

How can citizens play a role in helping to create public policy?

Knowledge and Skills

Students will analyze the purpose and evolution of key public policy issues throughout the 20th and 21st century America.

How does policymaking work in a federal system?

The formation of policy agendas

The role of instiutions in the enactment of policy

The role of the bureaucracy and the courts in policy implementation and interpretation

Linkages between policy processes and political institutions and federalism, political parties, interest groups, public opinion, elections and policy networks

What policy creation and changes exemplify the growh of federal power over American social and economic life?

Entitlements

Social Security

Medicare

Business regulations

Independent regulatory agencies

The Federal Reserve

Securities and Exchange Commission

The FCC

Income Tax

Fiscal v. Monetary Policy

How has foreign policy changed throughout the past century and what historical forces have driven these changes?

United Nations

Cold War

Interventionist Forces

Vietnam

The War on Terror

What policies are the legislature and executive branches considering currently? What are the pros/cons of the adoption of these policies?

Relevant and current events issues

How has/does the media drive policy making?

Spin

Agenda setting

Transfer Goals

Students will be able to independently connect how government institutions and political power influence foreign, social, economic and diplomatic policies and how these have shaped the lives of all Americans.

Students will be able to independently determine how continuity and change are embraced or rejected depending on one's perspective, experiences and place in society.

Resources

Textbook:

- American Government and Politics Today 2015-2016 Edition by Ford, Bards, Schmidt, and Shelley
- Amsco Review Book

Supplemental Readings:

- "The Logic of Collective Action: Public Foods and the Theory of Groups" by Mancur Olsen
- "Congress and Its Members" by Roger H. Davidson and Walter J. Oleszek
- "Issue Networks and the Executive Establishment" by Hugh Heclo
- "The Congress as the Surge Protector" by Neil Kinkopf
- "Exercising Wartime Powers" by John Yoo

- Additional Resources from WH databases, and articles connected to the content, including primary readings, historiography, and secondary sources.

- News publications, including but not limited to NYTimes, Washington Post.

  Upfront Magazine

  Pear Deck

  Albert i.o.

  WH Databases, AI (Gemini, Copilot, Magicshoolai), Pear Deck

  Web-based resources including but not limited to digital media (SIFT method), primary sources, peer reviews, historical documents and writings of historians

Videos:

- Frontline Documentary "Obama's Deal"
- Frontline Documentary "Facebook's Dilemma"
- John Oliver Segment on Taxation
- Policy debate on Medicare & Medicaid https://www.c-span.org/organization/?22126/Centers-Medicare-Medicaid-Services
- Lobbying & Public Policy Making https://www.c-span.org/video/?190554-1/lobbying-public-policymaking

Assessments

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mKgdwpriGuRcVHIVCJUdBEk7lih12Q0ckKSTC4TMUXs/edit

Modifications

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ODqaPP69YkcFiyG72fIT8XsUIe3K1VSG7nxuc4CpCec/edit