

# Contemporary Social and Cultural Issues

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s): **Social Studies**  
Time Period: **December**  
Length: **4 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit overview

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Students will understand contemporary issues and challenges related to social and cultural issues in the United States and around the world.

## Transfer

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Students will be able to use their learning from World History, US I and US II and connect it to social and cultural issues today. Students will also be able to use their learning to trace the development of social and cultural issues in the United States and around the world to pertinent modern issues.

## Meaning

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## Understandings

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*Students will understand that...*

modern social and cultural issues and challenges were shaped by the history of those issues

there are many modern issues and challenges in society and culture including:

## Essential Questions

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Students will consider...

How were modern social and cultural issues and challenges shaped by the history of those issues?

In what ways has urbanization continued to shape United States and global politics?

In what ways have human rights continued to be debated and discussed regarding:

- \*indigenous communities

- \*women

- \*minorities

- \*LGBTQ community

- \*disadvantaged

What role have local, regional and global organizations played in social and cultural issues around the world?

What are the challenges and issues regarding refugees?

What are the challenges and issues regarding United States, regional and global cultural blending & conflict?

What are the contemporary issues and challenges related to: drugs, educational accessibility, media and religion?

## **Application of knowledge and skill**

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### **Students will know**

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*Students will know...*

modern social and cultural issues and challenges were shaped by the history of those issues

there are many modern issues and challenges in society and culture including:

- urbanization continues to shape United States and global politics

- human rights continue to be debated and discussed regarding:

- \*indigenous communities

- \*women

- \*minorities

- \*LGBTQ community

- \*disadvantaged

- \*refugees

- role of local, regional and global organizations
- United States, regional and global cultural blending & conflict
- drugs
- educational accessibility
- media
- religion

### **Students will be skilled at**

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Recognize that modern social and cultural issues and challenges were shaped by the history of those issues

Investigate how there are many modern issues and challenges in society and culture including:

- urbanization continues to shape United States and global politics
- human rights continue to be debated and discussed regarding:
  - \*indigenous communities
  - \*women
  - \*minorities
  - \*LGBTQ community
  - \*disadvantaged
  - \*refugees
- role of local, regional and global organizations
- United States, regional and global cultural blending & conflict
- drugs
- educational accessibility
- media
- religion

### **Academic Vocabulary**

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rural  
urban  
indigenous communities  
suffrage  
minorities  
LGBTQ community  
U.N.  
refugees  
opium-heroin  
marijuana  
NCLB  
fake news  
Muslim  
Christian  
Jewish  
Hindu

## **Learning Goal 1**

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*Students will be able to...*

Investigate social and cultural issues and challenges facing the United States today

- trace the major social and cultural shifts throughout world and U.S. history leading up to the late 1900s/early 2000s

SOC.6.1.12.A.14.h

Assess the effectiveness of government policies in balancing the rights of the individual against the need for national security.

SOC.6.1.12.A.16.a

Examine the impact of media and technology on political and social issues in a global society.

SOC.6.1.12.A.16.b

Analyze government efforts to address intellectual property rights, personal privacy, and other ethical issues in science, medicine, and business that arise from the global use of new technologies.

SOC.6.1.12.B.14.b	Analyze how regionalization, urbanization, and suburbanization have led to social and economic reform movements in New Jersey and the United States.
SOC.6.1.12.B.15.a	Evaluate the effectiveness of the United States government's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance during international natural disasters and times of crises.
SOC.6.1.12.B.16.a	Explain why natural resources (i.e., fossil fuels, food, and water) continue to be a source of conflict, and analyze how the United States and other nations have addressed issues concerning the distribution and sustainability of natural resources.
SOC.6.1.12.C.16.a	Evaluate the economic, political, and social impact of new and emerging technologies on individuals and nations.
SOC.6.1.12.D.13.a	Determine the impetus for the Civil Rights Movement, and explain why national governmental actions were needed to ensure civil rights for African Americans.
SOC.6.1.12.D.13.d	Determine the extent to which suburban living and television supported conformity and stereotyping during this time period, while new music, art, and literature acted as catalysts for the counterculture movement.
SOC.6.1.12.D.13.f	Relate the changing role of women in the labor force to changes in family structure.
SOC.6.1.12.D.14.b	Assess the effectiveness of actions taken to address the causes of continuing urban tensions and violence.
SOC.6.1.12.D.14.d	Evaluate the extent to which women, minorities, individuals with gender preferences, and individuals with disabilities have met their goals of equality in the workplace, politics, and society.
SOC.6.1.12.D.14.e	Evaluate the role of religion on cultural and social mores, public opinion, and political decisions.
SOC.6.1.12.D.14.f	Determine the influence of multicultural beliefs, products (i.e., art, food, music, and literature), and practices in shaping contemporary American culture.
SOC.6.1.12.D.15.a	Compare United Nations policies and goals (i.e., the International Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals) intended to promote human rights and prevent the violation of human rights with actions taken by the United States.
SOC.6.1.12.D.16.a	Analyze the impact of American culture on other world cultures from multiple perspectives.
SOC.6.1.12.D.16.b	Explain how and why technology is transforming access to education and educational practices worldwide.
SOC.6.1.12.CS13	Postwar United States: Civil Rights and Social Change: The Civil Rights movement marked a period of social turmoil and political reform, resulting in the expansion of rights and opportunities for individuals and groups previously discriminated against.

## **Target 1**

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trace the major social and cultural shifts throughout U.S. history leading up to the late 1900s/early 2000s

## **Target 2**

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Understand how urbanization continues to shape the United States

### **Target 3**

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Examine how human rights continues to be debated and discussed in the United States regarding:

\*indigenous communities

\*women

\*minorities

\*LGBTQ community

\*disadvantaged

\*refugees

### **Target 4**

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Investigate how there are many modern issues and challenges in society and culture in the United States including:

-drugs

-educational accessibility

-media

-religion

### **Learning Goal 2**

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Students will be able to...

Investigate social and cultural issues and challenges facing the world today

- Investigate social and cultural issues and challenges facing the world today

SOC.6.2.12.A.5.e

Assess the progress of human and civil rights around the world since the 1948 U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

SOC.6.2.12.B.5.c

Determine the impact of migration on the way of life (e.g., social, economic, and political structures) in countries of origin and in adopted countries.

SOC.6.2.12.B.5.e

Assess the role of boundary disputes and limited natural resources as sources of conflict.

SOC.6.2.12.B.6.a	Determine the global impact of increased population growth, migration, and changes in urban-rural populations on natural resources and land use.
SOC.6.2.12.C.6.d	Determine how the availability of scientific, technological, and medical advances impacts the quality of life in different countries.
SOC.6.2.12.D.5.c	Assess the influence of television, the Internet, and other forms of electronic communication on the creation and diffusion of cultural and political information, worldwide.
SOC.6.2.12.D.5.d	Analyze how feminist movements and social conditions have affected the lives of women in different parts of the world, and evaluate women's progress toward social equality, economic equality, and political equality in various countries.
SOC.6.2.12.D.6.a	Assess the role of increased personal and business electronic communications in creating a "global" culture, and evaluate the impact on traditional cultures and values.

### **Target 1**

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trace the major social and cultural shifts throughout world history leading up to the late 1900s/early 2000s

### **Target 2**

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Understand how urbanization continues to shape the world

### **Target 3**

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Examine how human rights continues to be debated and discussed around the world regarding:

- \*indigenous communities
- \*women
- \*minorities
- \*LGBTQ community
- \*disadvantaged
- \*refugees

### **Target 4**

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Investigate how there are many modern issues and challenges in society and culture in the world including:

-drugs

-educational accessibility

-media

-religion

### **Learning Goal 3**

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Students will be able to...

Examine current problems and conflicts related to United States and world society and culture

- Examine current problems and conflicts related to United States and world society and culture

SOC.6.1.12.A.14.c	Assess the merit and effectiveness of recent legislation in addressing the health, welfare, and citizenship status of individuals and groups.
SOC.6.1.12.A.16.a	Examine the impact of media and technology on political and social issues in a global society.
SOC.6.1.12.B.15.a	Evaluate the effectiveness of the United States government's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance during international natural disasters and times of crises.
SOC.6.1.12.D.14.b	Assess the effectiveness of actions taken to address the causes of continuing urban tensions and violence.
SOC.6.1.12.D.14.d	Evaluate the extent to which women, minorities, individuals with gender preferences, and individuals with disabilities have met their goals of equality in the workplace, politics, and society.
SOC.6.1.12.D.14.e	Evaluate the role of religion on cultural and social mores, public opinion, and political decisions.
SOC.6.1.12.D.14.f	Determine the influence of multicultural beliefs, products (i.e., art, food, music, and literature), and practices in shaping contemporary American culture.
SOC.6.1.12.D.15.a	Compare United Nations policies and goals (i.e., the International Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals) intended to promote human rights and prevent the violation of human rights with actions taken by the United States.
SOC.6.1.12.D.15.d	Analyze the reasons for terrorism and the impact that terrorism has had on individuals and government policies, and assess the effectiveness of actions taken by the United States and other nations to prevent terrorism.
SOC.6.1.12.D.16.a	Analyze the impact of American culture on other world cultures from multiple perspectives.
SOC.6.1.12.D.16.b	Explain how and why technology is transforming access to education and educational practices worldwide.
SOC.6.2.12.A.5.e	Assess the progress of human and civil rights around the world since the 1948 U.N.



Declaration of Human Rights.

SOC.6.2.12.B.5.c	Determine the impact of migration on the way of life (e.g., social, economic, and political structures) in countries of origin and in adopted countries.
SOC.6.2.12.B.5.e	Assess the role of boundary disputes and limited natural resources as sources of conflict.
SOC.6.2.12.B.6.a	Determine the global impact of increased population growth, migration, and changes in urban-rural populations on natural resources and land use.
SOC.6.2.12.D.5.c	Assess the influence of television, the Internet, and other forms of electronic communication on the creation and diffusion of cultural and political information, worldwide.
SOC.6.2.12.D.5.d	Analyze how feminist movements and social conditions have affected the lives of women in different parts of the world, and evaluate women's progress toward social equality, economic equality, and political equality in various countries.
SOC.6.2.12.D.6.a	Assess the role of increased personal and business electronic communications in creating a "global" culture, and evaluate the impact on traditional cultures and values.

## **Target 1**

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Collaboratively evaluate possible solutions to political problems and conflicts that arise in an interconnected world.

## **Target 2**

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Develop solutions to problems and conflicts that arise in an interconnected world.

## **Assessments**

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### **Formative**

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problem based learning

direction instruction

cooperative study

oral presentations

primary source analysis

do nows

participation/discussion

expository writing

persuasive writing

homework

mini projects

## **Summative**

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4th Unit Test: Short Answer Questions

4th Unit mini-project: Choice Board (utilizing Gardners multiple intelligence style options)

End of Semester Current Events project

End of Semester Debate on future of U.S/world---Bright or Bleak

## **Accommodations and modifications**

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All assessments are differentiated and aligned to the Social Studies standards and curriculum. Differentiation can include, but is not limited to:

- Graphic Organizers
- Chunked Readings
- RAFT Activites (Role, Audience, Format, Topic)
- Layered Curriculum/Tiered Assignments
- Academic Games to practice skills and deepen understanding of topics
- Think-Pair-Share Activities
- Stations and Learning Centers
- Utilizing Pre-tests to reteach complex content before summative assessment
- Providing additional resources for independent study (videos, study guides, teacher notes, web-based resources)

Alternate assessments may include, but are not limited to Project Based Learning, projects or presentations, or a common paper/pencil assessment or combination of any of these. Some example alternative assessment can include:

#### 4th Unit Test

- Short Answer Test

Modified version:

- \*adjusted rubric to focus on understanding
- \*highlight topics to lessen choice
- \*shortened answers (about 2-3 sentences)

#### 4th Unit mini-project

- Choice Board (utilizing Gardners multiple intelligence style options)

Modified version:

- \*adjusted rubric to focus on understanding

#### End of Semester Current Events project

Modified version:

- \*teacher chosen groups
- \*less research

#### End of Semester Debate on future of U.S/world---Bright or Bleak

Modified version:

- \*teacher chosen groups
- \*some students may be judges

## **Unit Resources**

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Online websites and resources:

1. Digital Public Library of America: Primary Source Sets - <https://dp.la/primary-source-sets>
2. Digital History - <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>
3. Stanford History Education Group: Reading Like a Historian - <https://sheg.stanford.edu/rlh>

4. Stanford History Education Group: Beyond the Bubble - <https://beyondthebubble.stanford.edu/>

5. National Archives: Docs Teach - <https://www.docsteach.org/>

### Social Studies Databases

1. abc-clio for Social Studies

### Student Response Systems

### Primary Source Documents

1. The DBQ and mini DBQ Project Binders

## **Interdisciplinary Connections**

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LA.W.11-12.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
LA.W.11-12.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
LA.RI.11-12.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.), to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RI.11-12.7	Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
LA.RI.11-12.8	Describe and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. and global texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning (e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court majority opinions and dissents) and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy (e.g., The Federalist, presidential addresses).
LA.RL.11-12.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RL.11-12.6	Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement).