

## State Scholars Core Courses

### English – 4 Years

English I, English II, English III, English IV

### Mathematics – 3 Years

Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II

### Science – 3 Years

Biology, Chemistry, Physics

### Social Studies – 3 ½ Years

Chosen from U.S. History, World History, World Geography, Economics, Government

### Languages – 2 Years

2 years of a language other than English

## Wyoming P-16 Education Council

P.O. Box 1766  
Laramie, WY 82073



SSI is administered by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), based in Boulder, CO, and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 at \$6.6 million. | The work reported herein was supported under State Scholars Initiative, PR/Award Number (V051U050006) as administered by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education. | However, the contents do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education or the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.



# Features of Secondary School and Postsecondary Entry-Level Social Studies Courses

Feature	Typical secondary school social studies course	Typical entry-level postsecondary social studies course
1. <b>Total number of class sessions</b>	Year-long classes have about 180 class sessions of 55 minutes each or 90 class sessions of 85-90 minutes each. Semester courses have about 90 class sessions of 55 minutes or 45 sessions of 85-90 minutes each.	About 45 sessions of 50 minutes each during a semester of 15 weeks; the exact number of sessions depends on the specific course, the student's class schedule, and the institution.
2. <b>Textbook cost to student</b>	\$0 Some teachers request students purchase a text or manual for \$20-\$40.	A major text for \$100-\$150 with additional texts (2-4) for \$60-\$80 each.
3. <b>Instructional methods</b>	Class size of 20-30; lecture, discussion, worksheets and packets in a mix of individual, small group and whole group instruction and activities. Computer lab time is often used for research. Video is often used to provide living examples of the history studied.	Class size is often 100-300 students. Labs and weekly discussions led by graduate teaching assistants are common. Lecture with varying levels of active learning, sometimes electronic responses. Often one day is set aside for discussions that meet at the same scheduled hour as the class but may be led by graduate assistants.
4. <b>Instructional emphasis</b>	Activity is focused with group presentations using media such as PowerPoint.	Text comparison, independent critical reading, comparison and analysis. More emphasis on primary documents. Readings may not be discussed in class. Much more detailed knowledge is expected.
5. <b>Homework</b>	Ten pages of reading between classes is typical, usually taking 20 minutes. A major semester project requiring a couple of weeks of out-of-class time.	Each class meeting requires 50 to 100 pages of reading, which takes 60-150 minutes.

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6. Evaluation of homework	Major assignments receive detailed responses. Quizzes and short essays are used to motivate reading and to check for understanding.	Discussion with graduate students.
7. Basis of final grade assigned	Assignment of points: each quiz, activity, test and assignment has a point value matched to its importance. The grade is an average of these points with a final test often carrying high point value. Some social studies courses are project based with the success of the project determining the grade. Performance assessments are typically required.	Grades are test driven. Usually 3 or 4 exams, typically all multiple choice or all on-demand essay writing. The average of the tests is the course grade. There may also be a paper requirement in these classes, maybe 2 or 3 papers a semester.
8. Extra help in understanding course content	Teachers typically structure instruction to provide in-class time for individual needs. Out-of-class help is available before and after school.	Teachers offer office hours to meet with students. Most students do not take advantage of the chance to visit one on one with their professor, but they should. Graduate assistants offer help during lab time.
9. Instructor's extra-class responsibilities	Sponsoring student organizations and social events; communicating with parents by phone, mail, computer or at school events; conducting routine school duties such as bus and hall duties, lunch help, teacher leader and team meetings, parent conferences, accreditation tasks, committee work; participating in school and district professional development activities.	Conducting and publishing research, guiding the research of graduate students and advanced undergraduate students, participating in faculty committee work, participating in the activities of professional organizations, writing recommendation letters, attending professional conferences. [Note: Many entry-level classes are taught by graduate students who are themselves <b>full-time students</b> taking graduate courses and doing research.]



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