



Social Studies, Grade 4 (SOCS) 4B Syllabus

Course Name

SOCS 4B

Social Studies, Grade 4 – Semester B

Course Information

SOCS 4B is the second semester of this two-semester course.

SOCS 4 follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for 4th Grade Social Studies. In this second semester students will be exploring Texas as a Republic, the annexation of Texas into the U.S, the U.S.–Mexico War, the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas, Texas cattle ranching, Texas railroads and their impact on Texas Indians, oil discovery in Texas, urbanization, Texas in the 20th century, and Texas citizenship. The topics included in this semester are:

- the Republic of Texas;
- the annexation of Texas;
- the U.S.–Mexico War;
- the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas;
- Texas cattle ranching;
- Texas railroads and their impact on Texas Indians;
- oil discovery in Texas;
- Texas urbanization;
- Texas in the 20th century; and
- Texas citizenship.

Course Delivery Method

Online

continued →

Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at [TTU K-12](#).

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to understand the following:

1. After gaining independence from Mexico, Texans established a constitutional republic similar to that of the United States.
2. Leaders of the Texas Republic worked to address financial problems and provide protection for Texans.
3. The annexation of Texas caused a boundary dispute between the United States and Mexico that was eventually resolved after the U.S.–Mexico War.
4. Many immigrants came to Texas in the early 1800s and benefited from the free enterprise system in Texas.
5. Texas joined the Confederacy during the Civil War and was politically, economically, and socially changed by Reconstruction following the war.
6. After the Civil War, the cattle industry in Texas expanded with large cattle drives and vast ranches.
7. The expansion of railroads in Texas changed settlement patterns and promoted economic development.
8. The settlement of the Texas frontier shaped the lives of American Indians and the environment of Texas.
9. In the early 20th century, Texas became a leader in the oil and gas industry, facilitating increased urbanization and changes to the environment.
10. During the 1930s, Texans experienced an economic depression that was worsened by the Dust Bowl.
11. During the Second World War, Texans participated in the war effort, and following the war, Texas continued to urbanize.
12. In the latter half of the 20th century, the economic activities in Texas became more diversified.
13. In the 21st century, the economy of Texas is interconnected with global markets.
14. Texans make a difference by actively engaging in the political process and civic affairs.
15. Many diverse individuals and groups have contributed to the unique culture in Texas.

SOCS 4 addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](#) website.

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Textbook and Materials

Textbook(s)

There is no required textbook for this course. The following book is **optional**:

- Erickson, John R. *Cowboys and Horses: Ranch Life #2*. Texas, Maverick Books, 2017.

Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Word processing software such as Microsoft Word
- Adobe Reader (download from Adobe.com)
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** in the Syllabus section of your course)

Course Organization

This course is organized into seven lessons, a midterm examination, and a final examination. Each lesson contains the following:

- Introduction and Instructions
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Learning Activities
- Assignments

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
Lesson 1	Texas as a Republic	Two weeks
Lesson 2	Texas Annexation and the U.S.–Mexican War	Two weeks
Lesson 3	Texas During the Civil War and Reconstruction	Three weeks
Lesson 4	Texas Frontier	Three weeks
Midterm Exam		
Lesson 5	Oil Discovery & Urbanization in Texas	Two weeks
Lesson 6	Texas in the 20th Century	Two weeks
Lesson 7	Texas Today and Citizenship	Two weeks
Final Exam		

Assignment Schedule

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
1	1-2	Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded) Lesson 1 Topic 1: Successes and Challenges Lesson 1 Topic 2: Important Leaders Lesson 1 Topic 3: Proposed Solutions Lesson 1 Topic 4: Is Annexation the Answer? Lesson 1 Assessment
2	3-4	Lesson 2 Topic 1: Reasons for and Against Annexation Lesson 2 Topic 2: Annexation Arrives Lesson 2 Topic 3: Causes and Effects of the Mexican-American War Lesson 2 Topic 4: New Texas State Government Lesson 2 Assessment

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
3	5-7	Lesson 3 Topic 1: Causes of the Civil War Lesson 3 Topic 2: Economies of the North and South Lesson 3 Topic 3: Texas in the Confederacy Lesson 3 Topic 4: Emancipation Proclamation Lesson 3 Topic 5: Reconstruction Lesson 3 Discussion Lesson 3 Assessment Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)
4	8-10	Lesson 4 Topic 1: Ranching Life Lesson 4 Topic 2: The Cattle Industry Lesson 4 Topic 3: Railroads and Removal of Native Americans Lesson 4 Topic 4: Ranching Life Project Lesson 4 Discussion Lesson 4 Assessment
		*Midterm Exam
5	11-12	Lesson 5 Topic 1: Oil Discovered in Texas! Lesson 5 Topic 2: Oil Explorers Lesson 5 Topic 3: Impact of Oil Discovery Lesson 5 Assessment
6	13-14	Lesson 6 Topic 1: What Do You Know About the 20th Century? Lesson 6 Topic 2: The Great Depression Lesson 6 Topic 3: The Dust Bowl Lesson 6 Topic 4: World War II Lesson 6 Assessment
7	15-16	Lesson 7 Topic 1: Texas Culture Lesson 7 Topic 2: Texas Scientists Lesson 7 Topic 3: Texas Political Leaders Lesson 7 Topic 4: Being a Good Citizen Lesson 7 Assessment Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
		*Final Exam

Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average (for Units 1-3), including the final exam;
- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments and checkpoints have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson's learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative *multiple choice* assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course.

Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in **Remote Proctoring** in the Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- Coursework **(50% of Course Grade)**
- Summative Assessments **(30% of Course Grade)**
 - Midterm Exam (100 points)
- Summative Final Exam **(20% of Course Grade)**

Course Completion

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date.

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

Student Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for [Online Discussion Netiquette](#). Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.

Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by mail or email.

Technical Difficulties

Getting Help

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

Computer Problems

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted

time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

Server Problems

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

Lost or Corrupted Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.