

Course Title: Foundations of U.S. Law: A History of Oppression	
Number of Content Modules: 5	Grade Levels: 6-12
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Course Description

This course on the foundations of U.S. law will provide educators with the knowledge of laws that have historically oppressed marginalized groups. While this course is appropriate for all teachers of history, social studies, and social science, any teacher who wants to develop a better understanding of the historical and legal origins of the inequities structurally marginalized students experience would benefit.

The course will cover critical topics, including ways in which U.S. law has historically facilitated slavery, violence, segregation, and discrimination against different structurally marginalized groups, including African Americans, women, Asian Americans, and Latino/a Americans.

Educators will learn how to teach students to critique the justness of laws and their impact on structurally marginalized social identity groups. They learn culturally responsive strategies for examining the social, political, and economic effects of laws that have oppressed African Americans, women, Asian Americans, and Latino/a Americans.

Throughout the course, educators reflect on their teaching practices and develop a plan for incorporating legal critique in their classrooms. The goal of the course is to empower educators to become confident and competent teachers who promote students' critical thinking, commitment to equity, and advocacy for civil rights.

Course Objectives

CO.1 Analyze the different types of laws and rules established by the United States federal and state governments. (Danielson Domain 1a)

CO.2 Explain the origins and rationales for the creation of laws that oppress structurally marginalized social identity groups, including African Americans, women, Asian Americans, and Latino/a Americans. (Danielson Domain 1a, 3b, 3c)

CO.3 Analyze the establishment, implementation, and enforcement of different types of laws and rules established by the U.S. federal and state governments since the inception of the Constitution that oppress structurally marginalized social identity groups, including African Americans, women, Asian Americans, and Latino/a Americans. (Danielson Domain 1a, 3c)

CO.4 Critique the role and motivations of U.S. government leadership with law and rule-making authority in creating laws that blocked or limited the rights of specific groups of people. (Danielson Domain 3b, 3c)

CO.5 Explain the enforcement systems of oppressive laws and rules and who was granted authority to determine punishment for breaking them. (Danielson Domain 1a, 3b, 3c)

CO.6 Deconstruct the impact of the social, economic, and political advancement of the groups of people targeted by oppressive laws. (Danielson Domain 1a, 3b, 3c)

CO.7 Reflect on the ways oppressive laws have affected self, family, and friends socially, economically, and politically. (Danielson Domain 3b, 3c, 4a)

CO.8 Describe reactions structurally marginalized groups of people had to oppressive laws, rules, policies, or court decisions, such as protesting, lobbying, and organizing. (Danielson Domain 1a, 3b, 3c)

CO.9 Deconstruct the impact of the reactions of structurally marginalized groups of people to laws, rules, policies, or court decisions on their social, economic, and political progression. (Danielson Domain 1a, 3b, 3c)

CO.10 Design a lesson that builds students' understanding of historical events that led to laws that address a specific social identity group and that integrates the voices and perspectives of group members. (Danielson Domain 1a, 3b, 3c, 4a)

CO.11 Reflect in brave learning spaces to a) center experiences and perspectives of non-dominant groups, b) surface and interrogate beliefs, norms, assumptions, and practices that contribute to inequity, and c) reflect on the influence of socialization, identity, and culture on teaching and learning. (Danielson Domain 1a, 4a)

Course Outline

Course Introduction Module

Course available completely online
(24/7 and Self-Paced)

Assignments due by the end of the term.

Module Topics

In this module, you will learn about the course set-up, expectations for learning and collaborating, meet your colleagues, and reflect on your prior knowledge about teaching with artificial intelligence.

- Course Navigation & Methodology
- Course Description
- A Transformative Approach to Education
- Expectations and Community Agreements for Engaging in Brave Dialogue
- Community Building Circle: Course Story
- Course Objectives

Module 1: An Introduction to Types of Laws

Module Topics

During this module, we will explore the different types of laws and rules that are created by our federal and state governments.

Section 1: Sources of Law

- *Learn about It!* Constitutional Law and Statutory Law [45min]
- *Learn about It!* Administrative Regulations [45min]
- *Learn about It!* Case Law and Judicial Opinions [45min]
- *Master It!* Module 1 Post-Check [45min]

Module 2: Documental Oppression of African Americans in the U.S.

Module Topics

During this module, we will be learning and examining all laws that were used by the United States governments, both federal and state, to prevent African Americans from progressing socially, economically and politically throughout the history of the United States.

Section 1: Constitutional and Statutory Law that Oppresses African Americans

- *Learn about It!* The Promotion of Slavery in the U.S. Constitution [30min]
- *Learn about It!* Statutory Law Oppresses Newly Freed African Americans [30min]
- *Reflect on It!* Creation and Enforcement of Black Codes [60min]

- *Practice It!* The Fugitive Slave Acts [120min]
- *Practice It!* Analyzing Constitutional and Statutory Law [90min]
- *Reflect on It!* The Hard History of American Slavery [120min]

Section 2: The Oppression of African Americans through Case Law

- *Learn about It!* Dred Scott v. Sandford [30min]
- *Reflect on It!* Effects of the Dred Scott Decision [45min]
- *Learn about It!* Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) [45min]
- *Reflect on It!* Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954) [60 min]
- *Master It!* Laws Oppressing African American Rights [120min]

Module 3: Documental Oppression of Women in the U.S.

Module Topics

During this Module you will learn and reflect upon different rules and laws that were implemented by the governments in the U.S. to prevent the progression of women. You will come to find that women were continuously denied certain social, economic and/or legal rights that were even granted to men who were African American, immigrants, etc.

Section 1: Historical Origins of Gender Inequity Beliefs

- *Learn about It!* Historical Perceptions of Women [60min]
- *Learn about It!* Oppression of Women in Ancient Civilizations [90min]
- *Practice It!* Women's Legal Rights in Colonial America [120min]

Section 2: The Battle for Women's Rights

- *Learn about It!* Laws that Denied Women Rights in Colonial America [60min]
- *Reflect on It!* Women's Suffrage in the United States [60min]
- *Learn about It!* Women Making Changes [60min]
- *Master It!* Intersectionality and Black Feminism [180min]

Module 4: Documental Oppression of Asian Americans in the U.S.

Module Topics

During this module, you will learn about the different attempts by U.S. governments to oppress Asian American immigrants and citizens through different laws.

Section 1: Targeting of Asian Americans and Immigrants in the United States

- *Learn about It!* Discrimination of Asian Americans by the United States Government [30min]
- *Learn About It!* The Chinese Exclusion Act [60min]

- *Learn about It!* Japanese Internment Camps during WWII [60min]
- *Practice It!* Legal Oppression of Asian Americans [90min]
- *Master It!* Oppression of Asian Americans in the U.S. Essay [180min]

Module 5: Documental Oppression of Latinos/as in the U.S.

Module Topics

During this module, you will explore some rules/laws that were used to oppress Latino/a Americans socially, economically, and politically throughout the history of the United States.

Section 1: Legislation that affected Latino Americans in the United States

- *Learn about It!* The Struggles of Latino/a Americans in Southwest United States [60min]
- *Practice It!* Analysis of Cases and Historical Events that Oppressed Latino/a Americans and Immigrants [150min]
- *Reflect on It!* Bilingual Education Bans [120min]

Course Wrap-Up Module

Module Topics

In the Course Wrap-Up Module, you will reflect on your self-efficacy for mastering the course objectives.

Section 1: Summative Course Reflection

- *Master It!* Summative Course Reflection [30min]
- *Reflect on It!* Course Evaluation and Feedback [30min]
- *Learn about It!* Course Reference List