

New Renaissance In Education

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM TOPIC AREAS

(You may use or submit Lesson Plans for any of these Curriculum Topics.
You can also proposed new Curriculum Topics)

NOTE TO USERS AND CONTRIBUTORS:

The following are just some of the possible Curriculum Topics & Subject Areas that can be developed or proposed by YOU, the educators that contribute to NRIE. They are the suggestions of NRIE's Founder and staff. It doesn't mean they are the only or the best curriculum topics or ideas. NRIE encourages participating educators to add to and improve on these topics, while developing creative and inspiring lesson plans to go with them. Feel free to print these pages.

Thank you for your contributions!

Curriculum Area: AMERICA'S PHILOSOPHICAL & INTELLECTUAL ROOTS

I. WESTERN INTELLECTUAL TRADITION

A. CONNECTIONS (THREADS) THROUGH HISTORY:

(Threads that depict evolution of Western intellectual Thought)

Connections (Road to Freedom): From Christendom, medieval class structure, and mercantilism TO religious freedom, individual rights, and economic freedom (capitalism).

Connections: From Medieval class structure to the American and French Revolutions

Connections (Economics): From Feudalism (class economics) TO Mercantilism (Empire Economics) TO Italian city-states and banking usury and Return on Investment) TO Scientific Revolution (technical progress) TO Industrial Revolution (progress from applied science) TO the rise of the business class (power of productive capability) TO the Physiocrats and Adam Smith (laissez faire and free markets) TO modern free enterprise capitalism

Connections (Technological Progress): From Scientific Revolution TO Industrial Revolution TO American work ethic TO American dynamism and economic dominance.

Connections (Philosophy of Government Activist: TO Modern Liberalism): From Hobbes (absolutism, dependence on government) TO Rousseau (Romanticism, Social Contract & General Will) TO French Revolution (democratic republic, totalitarianism, socialism) TO Bentham (Utilitarian) TO Populism TO Legislative Activism TO civil rights movement TO the Welfare State TO socialism, social engineering, and modern liberalism/progressivism.

Connections (Philosophy of Government): From Machiavelli (statecraft, secular government, survival of the State) TO Locke (natural law, consent of the governed, limited government) TO Voltaire (universal morality, religious tolerance, Deism, natural rights) TO Montesquieu (virtue and freedom, separation of powers) TO the Founding Fathers and the U.S. Constitution TO democratic republic and limited government TO modern conservatism

Connections: From Voltaire TO the Enlightened Despot TO French Revolution to socialism and social engineering.

II. HISTORY, PHILOSOPHIES & EVENTS (RENAISSANCE TO REFORMATION)

A. Early Renaissance

(Discovery of Greek knowledge vs. Later Renaissance (new discovery and invention)).

B. Machiavelli

The Prince: statecraft, secular politics, the state's function: ensure its survival, end justifies the means, use of propaganda and repression, weaknesses of Republics & Constitutions, anticipation of Montesquieu

C. Thomas More

Utopia concern for common man (Chaucer), societal evils, anti-mercantile, intolerance of dissent

D. Erasmus and Humanism

New view of nature

E. Martin Luther & The Reformation

Connections: From Christendom and mercantilism TO individual rights, and religious, economic and social freedom

Connections: From Medieval class structure TO the American and French Revolutions

OTHER

Individual faith trumps formal Church (foretells freedom from unjustified/corrupt authority)

Freedom of religious & spiritual thought (forerunner of economic, political and social freedoms)

Principalities and secularization of the state (forerunner of nationalism and nation states)

Reformation's tendencies toward dictatorship (Lutheran and Calvinism)

Protestant minorities in England promote tolerance, democracy, natural law and rights

Protestant minorities promote colonization of New World

Julius Brutus & the Just Rebellion

Protestant ethic and rise of middle class, economic freedom rising with religious freedom

The Puritan Revolution

Events of James I to 1649, including Pilgrims (1620)

Edward Coke vs. James I (divine right), Petition of Rights (1628), 3 Resolutions (1629), and

Parliamentary control of army

III. THE NEW ECONOMY

Connections: From Italian city-states TO Scientific Revolution to Industrial revolution to rise of business class TO the Physiocrats and Adam Smith TO modern capitalism and economic freedom Italian city-states & the new economy, banking, birth of risk capital and profits, the explorers, Sir Walter Raleigh, East India Company, and entrepreneurship

A. Industrial Revolution

History of and key inventors

Factors leading to . . .

How it changed society. . .

Growth of factories & cities, growth of savings & investment, patents & innovation

How it influenced thought: Intellectual & political gap between the old Aristocracy and the new manufacturers

B. From Mercantilism to Adam Smith

Founding of Economic Theory

Quesnay and the Physiocrats: primacy of labor and profits, property rights and protection

Wealth of Nations -- labor theory of value, the invisible hand and self-interest (concentration of competency), natural progression toward improvement

David Hume's influence: imperfection of cause and effect, inter-relationships & long-term effects key to economic theory

Laissez faire economics, Benard de Mandeville, *Private Vices Made Public Benefits*, competition as better regulator than government

IV. the scientific revolution: rise of rationale thought and scientific method

Connections: From Scientific Revolution to Industrial Revolution to American Dynamism and economic dominance

Connections: Early Scientific Revolution: From Aristotle, Ptolemy and Aquinas to Kepler, Copernicus, and Galileo

A. The New Natural Philosophy

Francis Bacon's Empiricism: experimental science, inductive reasoning

Boyle, Hooke observation replaces metaphysics

Descartes' Rationalism: mechanical/mathematical universe (universe no longer has motives - secular)

Cartesian Method (relationship to discovery of atoms, and other scientific advancements)

Newtonian physics (Descartes in practice) -- Aristotle's universe replaced, scientific method.

From Newton TO John Locke (marriage of natural and political philosophy)

Advancements of Royal Society

V. PHILOSOPHIES & EVENTS (17th CENTURY TO MODERN TIMES)

A. Hobbes and Locke

Connections: From Hobbes TO Bentham to fascism and socialism,

Connections: From Locke TO America's Founding Fathers to modern (limited government) conservatism

Hobbes: Causality

Locke: Epistemology, limits of knowledge, intuition and demonstrated knowledge

Hobbes *Leviathan* (absolutism, Will of the state) vs. Locke's *Treatise of Government* (natural law, consent of the governed)

Locke: object of gov't to protect life, liberty, and property.

B. Voltaire's Enlightened Despotism:

Combines French Rationalism and English Empiricism

Connections: From Voltaire TO the enlightened despot TO French Revolution TO socialism and social engineering.

OTHER

Gulliver's Travels: use of satire (to show ridiculousness of French society)

Universality of morality, religious tolerance, Deism, natural law and natural rights

Candide, Babour. Essays On Customs

C. Montesquieu's Virtuous Society & Aristocratic Government

Connections: From Virtue and Liberty to limited/republican form of government TO Founding Fathers TO political stability, protection of individual rights, and economic dynamism in U.S. society

OTHER

Persian Letters, Spirit of Laws, Considerations (historical method and sociology)

-- Prince's Law vs. virtue (connects Virtue and Liberty).

Success/Downfall of societies tied to virtues and vices, dead unity, separation of powers, two legislative houses.

D. Rousseau's Romanticism

Connections: From Romanticism TO Populism TO modern liberalism

Connections (Alternative): From Rousseau's *Social Contract* TO General Will TO Nietzsche and Marx TO despotism and fascism Rousseau vs.

OTHER

Montesquieu 's general will vs. dead unity of despotism

The Instinctual, irrational, emotional glorified (the reasoning of the masses)

Emile, Rousseau's immoral life and society's fault, science and technology, education comes from within (relativism)

Social Contract, Will of the people (collective), one-party rule, civil (state) religion, state

E. French Revolution: Social Revolution

History of. . .

Evolution: From aristocracy enlightened despot TO general will, democratic republic TO general will totalitarianism (reign of Terror & tyranny of the common man) TO socialism & the Directory

Napoleon presents Rousseau's general will (in the end, the French not ready for a republic or to trust themselves w/ rule)

Why the failure of each evolution of the Revolution?

Marriage of Figaro: banned, fanfare for the common man, attack on feudalism & nobility "I have had to employ more knowledge and devices merely to exist than have been employed in the last hundred years to govern all of Spain"

F. Edmund Burke's Romantic Conservatism vs. Bentham

Common sense vs. principle; intelligence of tradition and the body of people, slow change

Reflections. . . , Rights of Man

Jeremy Bentham's Utilitarianism and Pragmatism

(The Greatest Happiness to the Greatest Number)

Connections: From Bentham TO Utility TO fairness and equity of results TO legislative license TO liberal welfare state TO ends justifies the means TO socialism and totalitarianism

Utility as test for virtue (from Hume), Legislative license, shift from principles of law to operations and results of law

Defends laissez faire as pragmatic & its efficacy, against welfare as ineffective

Against rights as they impose an obligation on another

Legal relativism, break from past

Robert Owens's Commune System

G. GERMAN IDEALISM

Karl Marx

Kant

Hegel's Dialectic (Compromise)