

**Single Plan for Student Achievement
Social Studies Department 2009-2015**

Goal A: Diversity and choice

To acknowledge and honor the diversity of the Gunn community and provide students with effective choices.

A1. Explore introduction of new courses and programs based on student needs.

- *Implement the newly approved Model United Nations versions of courses for Contemporary World, U.S. Government and U.S. History*
- *Implement the newly approved interdisciplinary course in California History and Literature.*
- *Explore the possibility of the International Baccalaureate program at Gunn and the way it would impact currently existing Social Studies programs*
- *Review current elective courses to update them to meet current needs*
- *Continue to offer courses in freshman and sophomore years with heterogeneous classrooms so students can benefit from the diversity at Gunn*

A2. Provide support for students to be successful in existing and new programs.

- *Support the needs of ELL students, Special Ed students and students who typically do not perform well at Gunn.*
- *Support the Focus on Success Program and the Pathways to College program.*

Goal B: Instructional practices

To maintain and encourage instructional practices that ensure student success.

B1. Encourage teacher collaboration and sharing of best practices.

- *Conduct a sharing of best practices in most department meetings.*
- *Encourage peer observation within and without the department.*
- *Continue to have teachers with common course assignment meet in smaller groups*
- *Continue to offer a variety of teaching styles to match student needs*

B2. Increase variety of instructional techniques with an emphasis on technology.

- *Continue to improve our use of technology in the classroom, with an emphasis on Web 2.0 tools*
- *Train students (and have them train each other) on how to be producer/creators of web content instead of consumers of such content.*
- *Update our teaching research techniques to teach students to be responsible and ethical researchers*

B3. Open challenging courses to all students.

- *Remove any unnecessary barriers to enrolling in honors, AP or IB courses.*

Goal C: Community and communication

To maintain a sense of community by streamlining communications, facilitating transitions, and reaching out to those not yet connected.

C1: Streamline communication with students, parents, faculty and community

- *Develop and explore ways to use InClass as a successful tool for communication and learning.*

C2: Maintain a sense of community and connections for students, teachers and parents as Gunn grows.

- *Continue to promote social studies clubs, community and civic participation, and field trips to build a sense of community for Gunn Social Studies students.*

Goal D: Excellence with growth

To maintain academic excellence and a sense of community during a period of growth.

D1: Work with DLM architects and DO to consolidate department classroom close to the library and computer labs

- *Give input to the architects regarding needs for more classrooms, more storage space in the existing classrooms, and improved office space.*

D2: Attract, retain and develop highly qualified staff to main academic excellence and support new and existing programs.

- *Encourage and provide opportunities for staff members to develop themselves as teachers and learners.*
- *Continue to maintain an esprit de corps via department social events and discussions about a professional learning community.*

Goal E: Student performance and assessment

To use data to inform instruction and improve student performance.

E1: Use data more effectively.

- *Continue to use SASI data (or its replacement system) to inform the department staff about grading practices, individual STAR test performance and the like.*
- *Use this information to develop department norms around student performance and assessment.*

E2: Provide each teacher sufficient latitude to develop multiple pathways for students to demonstrate content mastery in all subjects and to reflect on their growth and progress as learners.

- *Continue to develop innovative lesson plans that permits differentiation in instruction*
- *Continue to have working groups meet and discuss these issues to cross-pollinate techniques*
- *Encourage teachers to seek feedback on assignments, classroom activities, and instructional techniques*