

The following information comes from Jim Doris, Statewide Coordinator Social Studies, at the Texas Education Agency.

State Board of Education

1. Adopted the TEKS for the Personal Financial Literacy course
 - a. One-half credit elective 28.0021
 - b. High school grades 10-12 recommended, can be grade 9
 - c. Effective date: August 2016
 - d. Approved TEKS:
[http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Laws_and_Rules/SBOE_Rules_\(TAC\)/Adopted_State_Board_of_Education_Rules_-_Not_Yet_Effective/](http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Laws_and_Rules/SBOE_Rules_(TAC)/Adopted_State_Board_of_Education_Rules_-_Not_Yet_Effective/). The standards will be added to the list of course TEKS soon.
 - e. PEIMS Code 03380082
 - f. Teacher certification will be addressed by SBEC at their fall meeting. Until then, districts are encouraged to use their best judgment in identifying candidates to teach the PFL course; it is categorized as a social studies course in the Texas Education Code.
 - g. There is no list of recommended resources. Tentatively the course will be a part of Proclamation 2018 with implementation in School Year 2018-2019.
 - h. The course must be offered in 2016-2017. Does the new PFL course have to be offered annually? No, TAC 74.3(b)(4), "If the school district will not offer the required courses every year, but intends to offer particular courses only every other year, it must notify all enrolled students of that fact."
 - i. Other FAQs for PFL:
 - i. Is the new PFL course required for high school graduation? No, it is an elective.
 - ii. Can the new PFL course be applied toward the requirements of an endorsement? Yes, it is a Social Studies course and can be used for Arts and Humanities or Multi-disciplinary Studies endorsements.
 - iii. Can PFL TEKS be embedded in another course? No
 - iv. Can other courses that include some PFL content satisfy the PFL high school elective credit? No
2. Eliminated the combined World History/World Geography course as an option to satisfy the world history/geography graduation requirement until, and if, the course is developed.
3. Approved a process to be used in streamlining the TEKS for science and social studies
 - a. Timeline
 1. Science begins this summer, adoption spring 2017
 2. SS begins spring 2017, adoption scheduled spring 2018
 - a. Winter/Spring 2017: Applications post to TEA website
 - b. Spring 2017: SOBE nominates individuals to TEKS streamlining committees
 - c. Summer/Fall 2017: TEKS streamlining committees convene
 - d. Winter/Spring 2018: SBOE adoption of streamlined TEKS
 - e. Implementation: 2018-2019 Implementation
 - b. Process
 1. Statewide survey will be conducted asking educators to identify essential/non-essential TEKS at each grade level.
 2. TEKS streamlining committees are charged to do the following:
 - a. Pacing for mastery of content
 - b. Only delete or reduce the scope of student expectations

- c. Eliminate unnecessary duplication
 - d. Not move content from one grade level to another
 - e. Not add content or student expectations
- 4. AP and IB Social Studies: Review and clarification
 - a. Beginning with the school year, the following courses were required to address the TEKS for the corresponding course.
(TAC 113.55: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113d.html>.)
 - 1. AP Human Geography
 - 2. AP World History
 - 3. AP U.S. History
 - 4. AP U.S. Government
 - 5. IB History: Americas
 - 6. IB Geography, Standard Level
 - 7. IB Geography, Higher Level
 - b. AP United States History (APUSH) has a couple of options. SBOE rules allow students to take APUSH to satisfy the U.S History requirement or to earn a local elective credit.
 - 1. APUSH for state credit: The course must provide instruction in the TEKS for United States History Studies Since 1877. Students cannot earn state credit for both APUSH and United States History Studies Since 1877.
 - 2. APUSH for local credit: The course is not required to address the TEKS for United States History Studies Since 1877. Students can earn local credit. The local credit cannot be applied toward state graduation elective requirements.
 - c. AP Human Geography has a couple of options. SBOE rules allow students to take AP Human Geography for either one-half credit (as a state elective credit) or one credit (to satisfy the World Geography requirement).
 - 1. The one-credit AP Human Geography course must provide instruction in the TEKS for World Geography, and students cannot earn credit for both World Geography Studies and the one-credit AP Human Geography course.
 - 2. The one-half credit AP Human Geography course is not required to address the TEKS for World Geography, so students can earn credit for World Geography Studies and the one-half credit AP Human Geography course.

Religious Literature and Bible Literacy FAQs: In response to questions received by TEA, the following clarifications were provided.

- 1. Does a school district have to offer a Bible literacy course?
 - a. No, Districts are not required to offer a Bible literacy course. However, some instruction is required in religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature.
 - b. Districts may incorporate instruction regarding religious literature, as required by Texas Education Code ([TEC §28.002\(a\)\(2\)\(G\)](#)), into existing social studies courses and/or English language arts and reading courses and/or they may offer a specific course on Bible literacy.
- 2. What materials/resources should a district use for a Bible literacy course?
 - a. At this time, there are no state-adopted materials for a Bible literacy course.
 - b. Decisions regarding materials and resources for any course generally fall under local district control.
 - c. However, TEC §28.011(c) prohibits requiring use of a specific translation of the Bible.

3. What are the TEKS for a Bible literacy course?
 - a. If a school district offers one or more high school elective courses on the Old Testament and New Testament, it should adhere to the rules explained in [§74.36. Requirements for Elective Courses on the Bible's Hebrew Scriptures \(Old Testament\) and New Testament and Their Impact on the History and Literature of Western Civilization.](#)
 - b. A course offered under this section must follow either the TEKS for Special Topics in Social Studies or the TEKS for Independent Study in English.

4. Bible Literacy Courses

PEIMS Code	ELAR and Social Studies Options
03221830	Independent Study in English: Hebrew Scriptures (1/2-1 Unit)
03221840	Independent Study in English: New Testament (1/2-1 Unit)
03221850	Independent Study in English: Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament (1/2-1 Unit)
03380052	Special Topics in Social Studies: Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) (1/2 Unit)
03380062	Special Topics in Social Studies: New Testament (1/2 Unit)
03380072	Special Topics in Social Studies: Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament (1/2 Unit)