

EU Lesson Plan

Title of Lesson Plan: Governments in the European Union

Grades: 9-12

Brief Description: Compare the governmental systems of the European Union with the government of the United States. Emphasis will be placed on legislation and social programs.

Time: 3 days (one hour classes)

Objectives: By the end of the unit, students will understand the differences in governmental social programs in the United States as opposed to those governmental social programs being offered in the European Union. Students will focus on a comparison of United States Social Security to Sweden's pension plan.

Materials Needed: Various handouts.

Directions:

1. Review the social programs which are being offered by the United States government such as social security.

2. Discuss the social programs being offered by Sweden utilizing handouts:

"Pension Plan Reform in Sweden - Lesson for American Policy Makers"

www.heritage.org/research/socialsecurity/bq1381.cfm

"Econ Papers: Investment Choice in the Swedish Premium Pension Plan"

www.econpapers.repec.org/paper/crrcrrwps/2005-06.htm

Social Security On Line

www.ssa.gov

"Social Security: Understanding the Benefits"

www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/fed_prog/ssundben/ssundben.pdf

"Social Security Retirement Benefits"

www.ssa.gov/pubs/10035.html

3. Discuss Sweden's pension plan and compare it to the United States. Discuss if the program could be implemented in the United States and if it would be effective in the United States.

Assessment: Students will write their personal assessment of a social program being offered in the European Union and the implications of this program should it be made available in the United States.

Extension: Further research could be done about individual programs and their economic and political implications.

Educational Content Standards (State of Michigan Standards & Benchmarks, grades 9-12 in Social Studies):

- 1.3 Analyzing and interpreting the past
- 11.1 Diversity of people, places and culture
- 11.5 Global issues and events
- 111.5 American government and world affairs

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