**Abstract:** "Social studies" is an "artificial" subject in that it is not founded on one discipline as are biology or mathematics. Rather, it is an interdisciplinary subject, at best, or a cross-disciplinary subject, otherwise. It draws from anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, and sociology in New York State (with the addition of psychology in some other places, but not in NY). What is a discipline (cf. a subject)? Disciplines are based on "funded knowledge" and consist of disciplinary substance and disciplinary syntax. What are substance and syntax? In addition to funded knowledge, social studies is based upon conventional wisdom -- with the two sometimes being in confrontational modes. Created in the 1930s, social studies has a somewhat precarious academic or intellectual standing unless the social studies teacher has at least an elementary understanding of the epistemology that undergirds her or his subject. In contrast to "teacher training", in which one learns how to teach by emulating a master teacher, what is a major component of a "social studies teacher education"? In some want-to-be teacher education programs, too often missing is at least an elementary understanding of the philosophy of knowledge (i.e., epistemology) as it pertains to "social studies". Can it be learned at the high school or undergraduate levels?