

West Linn–Wilsonville School District
Social Studies Department – Course Statement

<u>Course Title: International Relations (Honors Option)</u>	
Length of Course:	Semester
Grade Level:	11, 12
Prerequisites:	None
CIM Work Samples	
Offered in Course:	Persuasive speech and essay, and social science analysis work samples
Date of Description/Revision: February 2006	
Course Overview	<p><u>Course Statement Note:</u> BOLD text indicates additional requirements or differences for the Honors option (compared to the regular course offering). Students may choose the Honors option once they have had the opportunity to review and understand those requirements which include: 1) more in-depth and/or additional class work, 2) independent, outside of class assignments, and 3) a different assessment structure (rigorous activity and higher level of expectation).</p>
<p>Honors International Relations will explore different global issues on a meaningful, fun, and experiential level. The class goes beyond the labels of the American political spectrum and gets to the heart of social studies—citizenship with participation. Students will be expected to become more informed about the present state of the world and to think critically about the role that politics and diplomacy play in shaping important events. Students will examine issues that the global community finds difficult to address, and then students will be expected to take on an active role, through established organizations, like Model UN, Democracy in the Classroom, and/or the Oregon Council on World Affairs, to take action. Three experiential projects will run simultaneously through the semester: 1) An international relations simulation, 2) a public policy/service project, and 3) A CIM evaluated research, persuasive writing, and persuasive speech project (that will include a technology component).</p>	
Essential Questions	Concepts providing focus for student learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the basis for international cooperation? • How do successful nations resolve conflict with other nations? • Why are some nations so rich, while others are so poor? • What are the necessary components to a sustainable future? • How do concerned citizens create public policy? • What are job opportunities for careers in international relations or international aid? • What does it mean to be American? 	

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Proficiency Statements

Upon completion of course, students will be able to:

Social Sciences CIM: Civics & Government

- Understand the civic responsibilities of U.S. citizens and how they are met
- Understand how government policies and decisions have been influenced and changed by individuals, groups, and international organizations
- Understand the purposes and functions of major international organizations and the role of the U.S. in them
- Understand how various forms of government function in different situations

Social Sciences CIM: Economics

- Evaluate different economic systems, comparing advantages and disadvantages of each
- Understand the purposes and functions of major international economic organizations and the role of the United States in them

Social Sciences CIM: Geography

- Locate and identify places, regions, and geographic features that have played prominent roles in historical or contemporary issues and events
- Analyze changes in the physical and human characteristics of places and regions, and the effects of technology, migration, and urbanization on them
- Understand how worldwide transportation and communication patterns have affected the flow and interactions of people, ideas, and products
- Analyze and evaluate the impact of economic, cultural, or environmental factors that result in changes to population of cities, countries, or regions
- Understand human modifications of the physical environment and analyze their global impacts and consequences for human activity

Social Sciences CIM: History

- Reconstruct, interpret, and represent the chronology of significant events, developments, and narratives from history
- Recognize and interpret continuity and/or change with respect to particular historical developments in the 20th Century
- Understand the causes, characteristics, lasting influence, and impact of political, economic, and social developments in world history

Social Sciences CIM: Social Science Analysis

- Define, research, and explain an event, issue, problem, or phenomenon and its significance to society
- Understand what it means to be a critical consumer of information
- Analyze an event, issue, problem, or phenomenon from varied or opposed perspectives or points of view
- **Propose, compare, and judge multiple responses, alternative, or solutions; then reach a defensible supported conclusion**

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General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
<p>A. Unit One: From Socrates to the United Nations How do philosophy, government, economics, and religion shape our modern world?</p> <p>B. Unit Two: At Home and Abroad What contributions are needed to make positive change in the West Linn community, Oregon, the United States, and the world at-large?</p> <p>C. Unit Three: Welcome to the United Nations How does the United Nations measure up when it comes to peace and security, economic and social development, human rights, humanitarian aid, and international law?</p> <p>D. Co-Unit Four: Country Studies What country will you study as you research, represent, organize positions, prepare policy papers, draft resolutions, and practice the rules of procedure and public speaking techniques for the Model UN?</p> <p>E. Co-Unit Four: Public Policy What issues, ideas, inspirations, and involvement are you willing to commit to your community?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3 weeks</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2 weeks</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5 weeks</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9 weeks</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9 weeks</p>
Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: <i>2006 Global Agenda Book</i>, Oregon High School International Relations League • Text: <i>UNFPA State of World Population 2005: The Promise of Equality: Gender Equity, Reproductive Health and the Millennium Development Goals</i>, United Nations Publications, 2005 • Other: Fall: Conference on Model UN; Spring: 1-4 day competition at Oregon Model UN 	