

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

<u>Course Title: Honors Law A: Trial Procedure</u>	
Length of Course:	Semester
Number of Credits:	1
Grade Level:	11, 12
Prerequisites:	None
CIM Work Samples	
Offered in Course:	Persuasive writing/speaking work samples
Date of Description/Revision: November 2005	
Course Overview	
<p>This one semester course is designed for students interested in understanding more about the American legal system. The class will focus on the study of hypothetical court cases, conducting legal research, and preparing a case for trial. The course will culminate in a mock trial where students will compete against other area schools' mock trial teams.</p>	
Essential Questions	Concepts providing focus for student learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the meaning of justice? • Does the American system of justice provide more rights for the criminals or the victims? • Does money buy justice? • What is crime and who defines it? • Should the goal of the criminal justice system be to punish or rehabilitate criminals? • What standards of care do you owe other individuals? • What standards of care do corporations owe individuals? • Should jury awards be capped in civil lawsuits? 	
Proficiency Statements	
<p>Upon completion of course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the basic legal concepts of civil law. • Understand the basic legal concepts of criminal law. • Research a case and develop a comprehensive case file. • Develop and write a case theory. • Develop and write a case theme. • Analyze witness testimony for case development. • Develop, write, and deliver an opening statement. • Develop, write, and deliver direct examination questions. 	

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- Develop, write, and deliver cross examination questions.
- Develop, write, and deliver a closing argument.
- Understand the Federal Rules of Evidence (admissibility of evidence).
- Properly introduce exhibits into evidence.
- Make and argue objections in a mock trial.
- Effectively communicate a persuasive case in a mock trial.

General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
A. Unit 1: Preparing a Civil Case for Trial	7 weeks
B. Unit 2: Preparing a Criminal Case for Trial	7 weeks
C. Unit 3: Juvenile Law Issues	4 weeks
Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Mock Trials: Preparing, Presenting, and Winning your Case</i>, Steven Lubet & Jill Trumball Harris, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, 2001 ◦ <i>Fundamentals of Trial Techniques</i>, Thomas Mauet, et.al., Little, Brown and Company • Other: Mock Trial Case provided by Classroom Law Project 	