

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

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>Course Title: Honors Law B: Constitutional Issues</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 how the U.S. Constitution works to guarantee specific rights to citizens. The course will cover three main topics: expressive freedoms and the First Amendment, equal protection and anti-discrimination, and the Constitution and criminal justice.</p> | |
| Essential Questions | Concepts providing focus for student learning |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is justice? • What are rights and civil liberties? • How does a society balance individual rights with community safety and control? • Does the Constitution adequately protect our civil liberties and rights? • How should the Constitution be interpreted? • What rights should be granted to those accused of crimes? • How far should our right to privacy extend? • Does the Constitution adequately protect the rights of minority groups? | |
| Proficiency Statements | |
| <p>Upon completion of course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss, in depth, contemporary legal issues. • Debate the meaning and interpretation of the Constitution. • Argue historical and hypothetical cases before a moot court. • Explain how the Constitution guarantees specific rights to U.S. citizens. • Write legal briefs which analyze historical and hypothetical cases. • Conduct in-depth legal research. • Explain the appeals process and Supreme Court review. | |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes | |
| <p>A. Unit 1: Historical and Philosophical Foundations of the Constitution</p> <p>B. Unit 2: Expressive Freedoms</p> <p>C. Unit 3: Equal Protection and Anti-Discrimination</p> <p>D. Unit 4: The Constitution and Criminal Justice</p> <p>E. Unit 5: Personal Autonomy and the Right to Privacy</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">3 weeks</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4 weeks</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4 weeks</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4 weeks</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3 weeks</p> |
| Resources | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>American Civil Liberties</i>, Otis Stephens & John Schneb, Wadsworth Publishing, 1998 ◦ <i>We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution</i>, Center for Civic Education, 1998 ◦ <i>Constitutional Law: Cases in Context, Volume I: Federal Governmental Powers and Federalism</i>, James Foster & Susan Leeson, Prentice Hall, 1997 | |