

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

<u>Course Title: Middle Eastern Studies</u>	
Length of Course: Semester Number of Credits: 1 Grade Level: 10, 11, 12 Prerequisites: World History CIM Work Samples Offered in Course: None	Date of Description/Revision: February 2006
Course Overview	
<p>Who built the first cities? Who invented writing? Where did the first states appear? Why are Jews and Muslims fighting in Israel today? Why has Iraq been our enemy? The Middle East was home to the first complex societies and the birthplace of several of the world's major religions. Today it is a hotbed of religious conflict, national power struggle, and oil-based economic power. This course takes an in-depth look at the Middle East from ancient times through the present.</p>	
Essential Questions	Concepts providing focus for student learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does land shape culture? • What keeps people in different cultures from working together? What factors make people view the world differently? • How is power attained, kept and lost? What are the moral implications of power? • Why should we care about the Middle East? What is going on there? How did it get like that? • How are people today affected by the events in the past? How have the history, culture, and religions of the Middle East affected the way we view the world? • Are historical events similar to current ones? Does history have predictive value? • How does the Middle East affect the world today? 	
Proficiency Statements	
<p>Upon completion of course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use documents and other primary data to analyze point of view, context, and bias, and to understand and interpret information. {borrowed from "habits of mind" for any history course} • Handle diversity of interpretations through analysis of context, bias, and frame of reference. {borrowed from "habits of mind" for any history course} • Understand the relationships between ancient cultures and modern intellectual and social phenomena. • Analyze modern Middle Eastern issues in terms of historical Islamic movements and texts. • Analyze modern Middle Eastern conflicts such as the Israel/Arab conflict and Iraq in macro 	

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geopolitical and historical context.	
General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Ancient Near East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egypt • Ancient Israel • Mesopotamia (Iraq) B. The World of Classical Islam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of Islam • The Ottoman Turks • The Crusades C. Period up to World War I D. The Modern Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict • Nasser and Sadat Regimes • Rise of Palestinian Nationalism E. Islam and the World Since 9/11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of Radical Islamic Movements 	
Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: <i>The Middle East: Opposing Viewpoints</i>, Greenhaven Press, 2003 	