

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

<u>Course Title: Vietnam in the 1960s</u>	
Length of Course:	Semester
Number of Credits:	1
Grade Level:	11, 12
Prerequisites:	Modern US History (or AP US History)
CIM Work Samples	
Offered in Course:	Persuasive or informative speech and writing work samples
Date of Description/Revision: December 2005	
Course Overview	
<p>This course will examine the causes and effects, and events leading to and through the Vietnam War, as well as the peace movement in the United States, during the 1960s. In addition to traditional forms of instruction, Vietnam War veterans, peace protestors, and others will share their opinions and experiences of the era. Assessment will include participation in class, reflections through journals and discussions, essays, quizzes, and tests.</p>	
Essential Questions	Concepts providing focus for student learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did the US get involved in the Vietnam conflict? • What policies did the US have for forces fighting in Vietnam? • How did the protest movement at home impact the war effort? • Why did the US ultimately leave Vietnam? • How did America’s withdrawal from Vietnam impact American society? 	
Proficiency Statements	
<p>Upon completion of course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the causes, characteristics, and impact of political, economic, and social developments in the United States during the 1950s. • Identify how US foreign policy brought about the United States’ involvement in Vietnam. • Understand how Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon addressed the Vietnam War and how their relative policies impacted the war. • Identify the causes and events that led to the Vietnam War. • Understand how the different sides fought and carried out the war effort. • Identify the major causes, events, and people of the Vietnam War. • Compare and contrast institutions and ideas during this time period, noting cause and effect relationships and change continuity over time (i.e., How did the Vietnam War change the way Americans viewed themselves and their government?). • Analyze and interpret time lines, charts, and graphs illustrating relationships; construct visual 	

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<p>graphics representing the understanding of those relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how music, poetry, and other art forms reflected the times. 	
General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
<p>A. <u>Unit 1</u> 3 weeks Cold War and American society in the 1950s</p> <p>B. <u>Unit 2</u> 3 weeks America’s initial involvement in the Vietnam conflict (1954-1963, JFK assassination)</p> <p>C. <u>Unit 3</u> 3 weeks The Vietnam escalation (1964-1968, Gulf of Tonkin, Operation Rolling Thunder, The Draft)</p> <p>D. <u>Unit 4</u> 3 weeks The war effort in Vietnam (DMZ, rules of engagement, Ho Chi Minh Trail, Tet Offensive)</p> <p>E. <u>Unit 5</u> 3 weeks Trouble on the home front (peace protests, Civil Rights, inflated body counts, Kent State, Woodstock)</p> <p>F. <u>Unit 6</u> 3 weeks Fall of Saigon (Vietnamization, Nixon, Christmas Bombings, Paris Peace talks, withdrawal, and fall of Saigon)</p>	
Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text: Packet of primary source materials for reading Supplemental Texts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Born on the Fourth of July</i>, Kovack, Ron, Akashic Books, new edition 2005 <i>Fallen Angels</i>, Meyers, W.D., Scholastic Paperbacks, reprint 1989 <i>Going After Caciatto</i>, O’Brien, Tim, Broadway, reprint 1999 <i>The Things They Carried</i>, O’Brien, Tim, Broadway, reprint 1998 <i>The Vietnam Reader: The Definitive Collection of American Fiction and Non-Fiction on the War</i>, Anchor, 1998 	