



Curriculum Proposal for Board of Education Curriculum Committee

Guidelines for Curriculum Proposal

Please provide clear, concise, and thorough statements for each of the following that apply.

- A. **Current Curricular Description**
- B. **Standards for Learning**
- C. **Expected Student Learning Outcomes**
- D. **Time Requirements**
- E. **Personnel Requirements**
- F. **Facilities/Equipment Requirements**
- G. **Teaching Strategies and/or Methodologies**
- H. **Material/Textbook Needs**
- I. **Costs**
- J. **Schedules**
- K. **Evaluation Procedures**
- L. **Follow-up**
- M. **Other Staff Affected**

Building Administrator: High School

Date: 1/10/25

Dept./Gr. Level Chair: Social Studies 9-12 Scott Minehart

Date: 1/10/25

Other Staff Affected: none

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposal must be submitted to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instructional Technology

2 weeks prior to a presentation before the Board of Education Committee

Proposal / Course Title: History of Global Diplomacy and International Relations **NEW COURSE**

Staff Member Requesting: Scott Minehart **Department/Grade Level:** SS 9-12

THIS IS A PROPOSAL FOR (*italicize all that apply*):

New Course **Course Content Change** **Instructional Methods Change**
Textbook Review or Change **Other**

Number of Classes: 1-2

Total Number Students: 20-40

Total Number of Teachers: 1

Requirements (facilities, materials, textbooks, anticipated costs, equipment):

A. Current Curricular Description

This course is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills required for active participation in Model United Nations (MUN) and a deeper understanding of global diplomacy and international relations. Students will study historical and contemporary international events, explore the structure and functions of the United Nations (UN), and practice skills such as critical thinking, research, writing, negotiation, and public speaking. The course supports Gull Lake’s emphasis on reading, writing, and speaking with purpose, and culminates in participation in MUN conferences.

B. Standards for Learning

This course aligns with Michigan’s Social Studies High School Content Expectations.

Michigan Social Studies Standards:

- **CIV.3.1:** Analyze roles of international organizations in addressing global challenges.
- **GEO.3.2:** Evaluate the impact of human-environment interactions globally.
- **ECO.4.2:** Understand the effects of globalization on economic interdependence.
- **WHG.6.3.1:** Investigate causes and effects of global conflicts in the 20th and 21st centuries.
- **WHG.6.3.3:** Analyze global patterns of trade and migration.
- **CIV.4.2:** Apply deliberative processes to propose solutions to global issues.

C. Expected Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Understand the structure and functions of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.
2. Analyze historical and contemporary global issues.
3. Develop skills in research, critical thinking, resolution writing, negotiation, and public speaking.
4. Learn about diplomacy, foreign policy, and international law.
5. Engage in simulations to apply skills in a Model UN setting.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Introduction to International Relations and the United Nations

- History and purpose of the United Nations
- Structure and functions of the UN (General Assembly, Security Council, ECOSOC, etc.)
- Key UN documents (Charter of the United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- Major international organizations (IMF, WHO, World Bank, etc.)

Unit 2: Research and Country Profiling

- Understanding country profiles: geography, politics, economy, and culture
- Foreign policy and national interests
- Research techniques for MUN topics and position papers

Unit 3: Global Issues and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Overview of the 17 SDGs
- Case studies on global issues: climate change, poverty, education, health, and human rights
- Analyzing UN initiatives and programs

Unit 4: Parliamentary Procedure and MUN Basics

- Introduction to parliamentary procedure (rules of debate, motions, points)
- Writing and delivering opening speeches
- Drafting position papers and resolutions
- Basics of negotiation and consensus-building

Unit 5: Conflict and Crisis Management

- Study of historical conflicts and UN interventions (e.g., Rwandan Genocide, Syrian Civil War)
- Understanding crisis committees and emergency sessions
- Role-playing crisis scenarios

Unit 6: International Law and Human Rights

- Introduction to international law and treaties
- Key human rights conventions and their implementation
- Role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Unit 7: Advanced Resolution Writing and Public Speaking

- Crafting comprehensive and effective resolutions
- Persuasive speaking techniques and responding to questions
- Practicing caucusing and coalition-building

Unit 8: Simulations and Conference Preparation

- In-class MUN simulations (practice committees)
- Strategy for representing countries at conferences
- Teamwork and delegation-specific preparation

D. Time Requirements

- **Class Sessions:** 72-minute sessions, five days per week over 12 weeks.
- **Independent Study:** 2-3 hours weekly for research, position paper preparation, and resolution drafting.

E. Personnel Requirements

- **Instructor Qualifications:** Certified Social Studies teacher with expertise in international relations, public speaking, or experience in MUN.

F. Facilities and Equipment Requirements

- **Classroom:** Equipped with internet access, projectors, and interactive whiteboards.
- **Technology:** Computers or tablets for research and drafting.
- **Additional Space:** Access to a multi-purpose room for in-class simulations.

G. Teaching strategies and methodologies

- **Interactive Lectures:** Using multimedia resources to explain international relations and UN structure.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Group work on drafting resolutions and position papers.
- **Simulations:** In-class MUN practice sessions and role-playing activities.
- **Case Studies:** Examination of historical conflicts and UN interventions.
- **Technology Integration:** Leveraging online databases for research.

H. Materials and Textbook needs

- UN Charter and other foundational UN documents
- Current event articles from sources like *The New York Times*, *BBC*, and *The Economist*
- Texts on international relations (e.g., *The Globalization of World Politics* by Baylis, Smith, and Owens) (This is optional)
- Online resources: UN website, CIA World Factbook, Human Rights Watch

I. Costs

- **Materials and Resources:** \$500 annually for books, digital subscriptions, and photocopying.
- **Conference Participation:** Estimated \$150-\$200 per student for registration and travel (optional but recommended).
- **Professional Development:** \$200-\$500 for teacher training in MUN methodologies.

J. Schedules

- **Daily Schedule:** 10-15 minutes lecture, 20-25 minutes group activities, 15 minutes simulations or discussions.
- **Simulations:** Scheduled bi-weekly to build cumulative skills.
- **Conference Preparation:** Dedicated sessions during the final three weeks of the trimester.

K. Evaluation Procedures

1. **Position Papers (20%):** Graded on research depth, analysis, and clarity.
2. **Resolutions (20%):** Evaluated for structure, creativity, and problem-solving.
3. **Debates and Simulations (30%):** Assessed based on participation, teamwork, and use of procedure.
4. **Quizzes and Tests (20%):** Covering content on international relations, UN structure, and global issues.
5. **Final Project (10%):** Participation in a MUN conference or organizing an in-school simulation.

L. Follow up

- **Post-Course Surveys: Gather feedback for improvement.**
- **Teacher Collaboration: Discuss integration of course content into other subjects.**
- **Student Reflection: Encourage reflection essays on learning outcomes and personal growth**

M. Other staff affected

- **Librarians:** Support for research activities and material acquisition.
- **Technology Staff:** Maintenance of digital resources and equipment.
- **Administrative Support:** Assistance with conference coordination and logistics.