

Florida Department of Education

Course Description - Grades 9-12, Adult

Subject Area: Social Studies
Course Number: 2106355
Course Title: International Law Studies
Credit: 0.5

- A. Major concepts/content.** The purpose of this course is to analyze and compare the different legal and political concepts, systems, and operations across countries and ideologies; how these structures affect international relations, and how legal disputes between countries are settled. The intent of this course is to give students a more global perspective of democratic citizenship within the framework of civics education.

The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- basic legal/political science vocabulary
- comparison of major political ideologies (communism, fascism, socialism, and democracy) from historical and ideological perspectives
- evaluation of the fundamental characteristics of legal and governmental systems throughout the world emphasizing specific elements of constitutionalism including: Rule of law in the government, society, and economy; A government limited and empowered to secure rights of the people; Separation and sharing of powers as a means to limited government; An independent judiciary with power of judicial or constitutional review by which to limit government according to the rule of law.
- the role and function of government and the citizen in each system
- the nation-state system
- the need for laws
- adversarial versus inquisitorial systems of justice
- the role and function of the United Nations in international law vis-à-vis the International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- a comparative analysis of domestic and international documents and events in examining the historical basis and evolution of individual and human rights
- the role and function of the European Court of Justice
- the role and function of the Inter-American Court of Justice

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B. Special Note. None

C. Course Requirements. After successfully completing this course, the student will:

1. Understand the nature of law in a civil society and the place of law in preserving order in society. **(SS.C.2.4.5) (SS.C.2.4.6)**
2. Understand the ways various legal/political systems provide for and/or restrict the rights of citizens. **(SS.C.1.4.1)**
3. Recognize the historical foundations for the major legal/political systems. **(SS.A.1.4.2)**
4. Understand the historical and geographic development of major legal/political systems, including strategies for influencing peoples' choices of one political ideology over another. **(SS.A.1.4.4)**
5. Describe how different legal/political philosophies affect international relations and conflicts. **(SS.C.2.4.3)**
6. Understand the historical development of international law through armed conflicts, humanitarian law, war crimes, etc. **(SS.A.3.4.10)**
7. Understands the purposes, structures and functions of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the protection of human rights on global and regional levels. **(SS.A.5.4.7) (SS.C.1.4.4)**
8. Gain mastery of reading in the content area. **(LA.A.1.4.1-4) (LA.A.2.4.1-6)**
9. Apply research, study, critical-thinking and decision-making skills and demonstrate the use of new and emerging technology in problem solving. **(SS.C.2.4.1) (SS.C.2.4.2)**