

Wachusett Regional High School

Course Name: International Relations

Level: Honors

Grade (s): 12

Course Description:

Students will engage in a comparative study of different nations' governments: their political ideologies, structures, and policies. Based on this knowledge, students will then be provided with a comprehensive introduction to international relations. Historical attempts at significant international relationships, and the roles of treaty organizations, blocs, summitry, and the United Nations will be examined in trying to reach an understanding of the realities of international problem solving. College-level reading materials will be used and students are expected to do independent research and participate in panels and debates.

Links to Student Expectations:

1. All students will complete a high school program that prepares them for entrance into higher education or career paths.
2. All students will attend school regularly and adhere to the code of conduct as specified in the Wachusett Regional High School Handbook.
3. All students will develop skills to manage technology such as gathering, evaluating, assimilating, and presenting information.
4. All students will assess information in a critical manner by using skills that demonstrate the ability to identify and approach, and provide resources to solve a problem.
5. All students will learn to communicate critically, persuasively, and personally in both oral and written expression.
6. All students will develop an appreciation of the arts.
7. All students will develop skills to promote a sense of confidence in tackling the rigors of standardized tests such as the required MCAS and optional AP and SAT.

Interdisciplinary Connections:

- ✓ World History, 1815 to the Present (emphasis on Cold War Period)
- ✓ United States History, 1607-Present
- ✓ Economics
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Comparative Government

Essential Concepts:

1. International Relations develops a student's understanding of World Politics.
2. International Relations fosters an awareness of the globe's cultural diversity.
3. International Relations stresses an understanding of World geography and the environment.
4. International Relations identifies the World's conflicts and resolutions.

Wachusett Regional High School

Essential Concepts continued

5. International Relations studies the increased demands for a thorough understanding of the influence of the new technological revolution.
6. International Relations will develop an understanding of system-level, state-level, and individual-level concepts in World relationships.
7. International Relations stress a thorough understanding of the vital role of the United States on the global scene.

Student Objectives:

1. Students will write essays on the development of modern world politics, the many cultural diversities and how geography and the environment exert an ever-increasing impact on international relations.
2. Students will read about and discuss the many hostilities and subsequent resolutions that have transpired over the last two centuries.
3. Students will study the latest in technological innovation and its impact on the decision-making abilities at the system-level, state-level, and individual-level of global politics.
4. Students will evaluate the role of the United States in international relations especially in the 20th century.

Suggestions for Instruction:

1. Students will read primary and secondary texts:
 - ✓ International Politics on the World Stage, (8th Edition). McGraw-Hill, 2001.
 - ✓ Goode's World Atlas, 19th Edition. Rand McNally, 1995.
2. Students will work individually to develop a voice.
3. Students will work in cooperative learning groups.
4. Students will use technologies in the Media and Writing Centers.
5. Students will conduct interviews.
6. Students will concentrate on current events through newspaper, periodicals, television, and the Internet.

Suggestions for Assessment:

- ✓ Identifications (international) relevance
- ✓ Quizzes and tests
- ✓ Current event challenges
- ✓ Essays for critical thinking
- ✓ Written and oral projects
- ✓ Debate strategies
- ✓ Newspaper evaluations

Wachusett Regional High School

Curriculum:

- ✓ Approaches to World Politics
- ✓ Two Roads: Divergent Political Orientations
- ✓ Two Roads: Divergent Organizational Structures
- ✓ Two Roads: Divergent Approaches to Conduct
- ✓ Pursuing Peace
- ✓ Pursuing Prosperity
- ✓ Pursuing Preservation