

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Global Studies: United Nations and Modern World History**  
**Mike Thornton and Gary Klingman**

**Course Objectives:**

**The main course objective is to develop an awareness of the wider world beyond the United States. Beginning with an introduction to the formal world community (the United Nations), the course will cover historical periods as they influence the world community today. A major concentration will be on recent history, especially contemporary issues. There will be additional emphasis on the inclusion of technology in all areas of class.**

**Text: Online Text *World History: The Modern Era* Pearson/Prentice Hall**

**A variety of supplementary materials may also be used.**

**Students may also be assigned many activities including the following:**

**Essays**  
**Research – Modern Language Association Format**  
**Projects**  
**Presentations**  
**Current Events**  
**Wiki Pages**  
**Podcasts**  
**Movie Making**  
**Design**  
**Library Databases**

**Major topics include the following:**

**United Nations**

**Early Modern Times**

**The Renaissance and Reformation**  
**The Age of Exploration – The Age of Global Expansion**  
**The First Global Age: Europe and Asia**  
**The First Global Age: Europe, the Americas, and Africa**  
**The Age of Absolution**

**Enlightenment and Revolution**

**The Enlightenment and Revolution**  
**The Enlightenment and the American Revolution**  
**The French Revolution and Napoleon**  
**The Beginning of the Industrial Revolution**  
**Revolutions in Europe and Latin America**

**Industrialism and a New Global Age**

**Life in the Industrial Age**

**The Triumph of Nationalism in Europe**

**The Growth of Western Democracies**

**The New Imperialism**

**New Global Patterns**

**Wars and Revolutions**

**World War I and Its Aftermath**

**The Russian Revolution**

**Nationalism and Revolution Around the World**

**The Crisis of Democracy in the West**

**World War II and Its Aftermath**

**The World Today**

**An Overview of the World Since 1945**

**Europe and North America**

**East Asia and Southeast Asia**

**South Asia and the Middle East**

**Africa**

**Latin America**

**Case Studies on Contemporary Issues**