**World Geography Syllabus**

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**Introduction:**

Students and parents, my name is Mr. Osburn and I’d like to welcome you to World Geography. Over the course of this semester-long class, students will gain a greater understanding of the world. World Geography is about where things are in the world, obviously, but it is also about the systems humans create to live on the world and how they interact with the environment. Hopefully, students will learn more about who we are as human beings, what is important to us, how we are connected, how we need to improve, and how we may celebrate our collective successe. There will be many different learning methods. Students may participate in class discussions, take notes, perform various projects and presentations, interpret songs/poems/pictures, collaborate with peers and teachers, read and write, and perform other activities to grasp the material. This course will cover material from prehistory to the present day. What follows is a short summary of my general course policies, and I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you this upcoming year.

**General Course Schedule:**

This is a semester-long course. The course is divided primarily by world region, so there will be units on the Earth’s major regions. Within each unit, there are subsections about the physical geography of the region, as well as cultural, social, economic, and demographic geographies of that region. About every two to three weeks, students should expect to receive a test on the pertinent unit. This class will have a midterm test as well as a Final exam.

**Required Materials:**

Pen, Pencil, Paper, Folder/Notebook or some method to organize materials. If students are issued textbooks, I will let them know when they need to bring them. Note that I will periodically collect notes and bell ringers for a grade. So, whatever organization system you choose to use, make sure it doesn’t fail you on grading day.

**Grading Policy:**

The grading for this class will be done on a point system. The exact number of points will be determined by the total number of assignments. 80% of the grade will be determined by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of points possible. The other 20% will come from the final.

The grade percentage breakdown for this class is as follows:

Summative Assessments: Tests/Projects: **40%**

Formative Assessments: Class Participation and Conduct/Assignments/Homework/Quizzes: **60%**

Final: (20% of the overall final grade. The breakdown listed prior refers to the grade before the final).

Notice that tests are a major component of this course. As such, it is imperative that students keep good notes and study from them (that’s what they’re for, after all). I frequently, though not always, give study guides for tests, but studying is a student responsibility. Notice also that participation and conduct play a relatively large role in the grading scale. **Bullying and disrespect of other student’s ideas will not be tolerated**. Respect and Responsibility are paramount. In general, do your work the best you can on time and you’ll be fine.

**Late/Make Up Work Policy:**

You may turn in late work for a point deduction as long as the work is from the current semester. Understand that it is your responsibility to figure out what you missed on days you are absent. Check Canvas (I post class notes and assignments here for your convenience), check with your classmates, check with me at an appropriate time, and get your work in. If you miss a test, you must make it up. By and large, tests must be made up after school as students will be working on additional course material in class. It is the student’s responsibility to make the necessary arrangements to redo assignments. Corrections/Revisions/Redos etc. are always at my discretion. Students may also retake unit tests they fail after school by appointment with the possibility of earning full points.

**Credit Recovery Policy:**

Students who fail at report card for Quarters 1 or 3 will be enrolled in an edgenuity course that corresponds to the material from that quarter. Students who complete this by the applicable deadlines have the opportunity to boost those quarter grades to a maximum of 75. Keep in mind that this work is supplemental in nature and students still must keep up with the current course work.

**Tutoring Policy:** After School Monday through Thursday. Please make an appointment beforehand in case I have other obligations

**Classroom Rules/Guidelines and Discipline Framework:**

1. Your actions should be defined by **Respect and Responsibility**. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. Be in your seat working on the Bell Ringer or other activityby the tardy bell. NO REQUESTS AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS (I need to get class started)!
3. Ask permission to leave your seat.
4. NO talking when the teacher or another student is talking.
5. No headgear of any kind while in the classroom
6. Bring your class materials to class every day. I am not responsible for supplying these items.
7. **Do not take out cell phones for any reason unless allowed by the teacher. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the confiscation of the device and/or a loss in points.**
8. No food or drinks in the classroom. (Bottled water is fine.)

**Falure to comply with these expectations, as well any violations of the school-wide conduct policy, will result in one or more of the following actions, as appropriate:**

1. Verbal warning
2. Participation point deductions
3. Student Relocation/Detention
4. Parent Notification
5. Disciplinary referral

Please note that I reserve the right to apply these consequences as the severity and frequency of the infraction dictates

**DIFFERENTIATION**: Students come to class with different learning styles, backgrounds, preferences, and life experiences. While everyone is responsible for the same curriculum, the way each student learns that curriculum may be different. Everyone’s finish line is the same, everyone’s course is not!

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Copying from another student is cheating, whether on quizzes, tests, exams or homework assignments. Plagiarism is also very serious form of academic dishonesty. The most common form (but not the only form) of plagiarism is using someone else’s words without putting them in quotation marks and indicating the source of the information. ANY FORM of academic dishonesty is automatically subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to reduced credit or NO credit for an assignment, teacher detention, or office referrals.

**Canvas:** Canvas is the district’s online classroom portal. Students should use this to help keep up with assignments and get additional materials. It is accessible through the Student Launchpad

Parents/Students: If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above email address. I wish to help all students succeed. I am available most days after school, and can easily make arrangements to conduct tutoring/reviews/redos if necessary. Reach out to me!

Signing implies that you (both parent and student) have read and understood these outlined conditions/expectations and agree to abide by them in their entirety.

Parent

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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