

Honors World Geography

Class Syllabus

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Course Description: The focus of World Geography is the physical and cultural characteristics of Earth. The course is organized systematically around the topics of region, physical earth dynamics, population, culture, economic systems, urban systems, political systems, and the environment. The course standards are not meant to be taught in order or in isolation. Critical thinking should be emphasized in this course, with stress placed on the development of spatial thinking skills and competency related to the five themes of geography: location, place, regions, movement, and human-environment interaction. Conceptual in nature rather than place-specific, the course may be taught from either a systematic or a regional perspective. For this reason, an example is included in each indicator, giving the teacher insight into the intent of the indicator. Map-reading skills and the use of geographic models and geographic information systems should be an integral part of this course.

National Thematic Standards for Social Studies

Culture; Time, Continuity and Change; People, Places and Environment; Individual Development and Identity; Power, Authority and Governance; Individuals, Groups and Institutions; Production, Distribution and Consumption; Science, Technology and Society; Global Connections; Civic Ideals and Practices

South Carolina State Standards for World History

Standard WG-1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the physical and human characteristics of places, including the creation of regions and the ways that **culture** and experience influence the perception of place.

Standard WG-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface, including the dynamics of the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere.

Standard WG-3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.

Standard WG-4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of **culture**, the patterns of **culture**, and cultural change.

Standard WG-5: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the role that geography plays in economic development

Standard WG-6: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement

Standard WG-7: The student will demonstrate an understanding of how cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface.

Standard WG-8: The student will demonstrate an understanding of how human actions modify the physical environment; how physical systems affect human systems; and how resources change in meaning, use, distribution, and importance.

Typical Outline of Unit Material

(Subject to Change)

1. **Classwork Grades** – Student Notebooks will be graded each quarter for selected assignments, homework, journal entries and notes.
2. **Geography Quizzes** – Map Reading Ability and locating Countries, States and Physical Features
3. **Unit Vocabulary**
4. **Guided Reading Summaries & Questions** – Using textbooks, primary/secondary documents or outside reading.
5. **Digital Assignments/ Projects**
6. **Reading Quiz** (Oral and Written Quizzes)
7. **Unit Exam**
8. **Research Papers/ Essays**

World Geography– Tentative Unit Schedule

1st Semester

- Unit 1 - The Earth and Landforms
- Unit 2 - The United States and Canada
- Unit 3 - Europe
- Unit 4 - Latin America
- Unit 5 - Africa
- Unit 6 - Asia

2nd Semester

- Unit 7 - Demography
- Unit 8 - Culture
- Unit 9 - Political Geography
- Unit 10 – Development and Urbanization

Mr. Meyer's Classroom Information:

Required Materials: In our class, students require a writing utensil, the *Geography – The Human and Physical World* textbook, a 3-ring binder to organize notes, worksheets and assignments, an open mind and a positive attitude!

Notebooks: Students must provide a 3-ring binder dedicated solely to this subject. The purpose of this notebook is to record daily assignments, reminders, notes, journals and essays. Students are required to keep a regular record of questions and written assignments in this notebook. The students will take a final exam for this class which requires the student to write a cohesive essay on a given topic from throughout the year. My goal is that this daily record of progress and written assignments will display the growth of your student throughout this school year. I will grade portions of these notebooks every quarter.

Organization: I will provide a file folder for all of my students to place their unfinished assignments, and any other documents they wish to keep in my room. I will also place daily assignments, note sheets, graded assignments, missing work reminders and any other important documents in the students' folder. Upon arrival to class, students will check their file for any new worksheets, documents, graded work, etc. They will also place completed work in the **BLUE** folder as they prepare for class.

Second Chance Policy: Students may be given an opportunity to "make-up" or improve their scores on TESTS ONLY as part of the second chance policy. This does NOT mean a retest...students who score below an 85 may be offered the opportunity to correct missed questions on a test in order to earn half of the missed points back on their test grade as long as students have not been absent for 30% or more of the unit. Students can improve their test grade to a maximum score of 85 however, students may be LIMITED on the number of times this option will be allowed. Since the final exam has NO OPPORTUNITY for a retake/second chance, students are encouraged to do their best in their first opportunity throughout the year. Students have ONE WEEK to take advantage of any second chance opportunity. Students will NOT be allowed to come at the end of the quarter to make corrections. "Extra Credit" may be offered at the teacher's discretion during the duration of the course.

Electronic Devices: It is my classroom policy to collect phones for the duration of a given class period. An electronic device is considered a cell phone, mp3 player, laptop computer, tablet, etc. Electronic devices are to be utilized during class ONLY if I have given permission to do so.

Restroom: Students will be in my class for only 55 min, therefore it is not beneficial to miss valuable class time. I encourage students to use the restroom before entering class!

Make-up Work: I will provide materials for students who are absent from class for those who ask for them. They are to pick these materials up from their file as soon as possible to catch up on what was missed. It is the responsibility of the student to retrieve any notes, worksheets or assignments from their folder or another student.

Final Exam: GCSD administers a district-wide final exam for World Geography. It is composed of a sizeable multiple choice section and an in-class essay. I do not write, nor have any input for these exams. **The final exam is worth 20% of the final course grade.** Quarter 1 – 4 are only 80% of what your student is graded upon.

Mr. Meyer's Class Rules and Expectations:

- Be respectful to yourself, others and their belongings.
- Maintain a safe and productive learning environment.
- Keep all of your electronic devices off and away unless told otherwise.
- Come to class prepared and keep track of your assignments.
- Follow directions to the best of your ability.
- Keep your area and materials organized and clean.
- Be honest in your effort, and your education.

Consequences

- First – You will correct your slip-up, and one verbal warning will be issued.
- Second – Student and Teacher conference.
- Third – Parental Contact and a tutoring session.
- Final – Parental Contact, a tutoring session and an Administrative Referral

In the case of extreme escalation and disruption of a positive, safe environment, a student will be removed from the class. The final consequence will be issued.

Grading Scale

Refer to the GCSD Grading Policy

A 100 – 90

B 89 – 80

C 79 – 70

D 69 – 60

F 59 or lower

Assignments/Grading

Quarter Grades are calculated using the percentages below

Major assessments - (Tests/Projects) 45 %

Minor Assessments - (Notebooks, Essays) 20%

Class work - (Quizzes, Class Activities) 25 %

Homework 10 %