World Geography Syllabus

Course Description:

The study of World Geography focuses on the relationships among people, places, and environments that result in geographic patterns on the earth. The students will use geographic methods to compare and analyze landforms, climates, and natural resources, as well as cultural, political, economic, and religious characteristics of the world regions. Students will use a variety of interdisciplinary sources, both primary and secondary, such as maps, pictures, and documents to learn about the geography of different world regions.

Major Learner Outcomes:

- Students will analyze the major landforms, climates, and ecosystems of earth and the interrelated processes that produce them.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of geographical information and present this knowledge in a variety of assessment formats, which include essay composition, document analysis, project-based research, written tests and quizzes, cooperative grouping and decision-making simulations, and other performance based activities.
- Students will be able to assess the role of important individuals, places, and environments by demonstrating their relationships to each other.
- Students will be able to detect the role of cause and effect in understanding historical events and examine their effects on the development of our modern government.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of current social problems, global economic interdependence, governmental processes, and the characteristics of culture.
- Students will demonstrate technological competency by producing and presenting a PowerPoint project that reflects mastery of basic computer skills. Access to the Internet will also be utilized to enrich available governmental information.

Sequence:

1. Introduction to Geography
2. Review of Maps, Graphs, and Charts Skills
3. Physical Geography
4. Human Geography
5. United States & Canada
6. Latin America
7. Europe
8. Russia and the Republics
9. Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia
10. Sub Saharan Africa
11. South Asia
12. East Asia
13. Southeast Asia
14. Oceania
15. Final (Atlas)

Unit Details

Each unit builds approximately the same way:
- Introductory Video (goal: to build background knowledge)
- Vocabulary (goal: to build foundations)
- Vocabulary Quiz (Daily Grade - goal: to assess progress)
- Maps (Double Daily Grade - must be sketched - keep for final project goal: to build knowledge)
- Lecture Quiz (Daily Grade - open notes - goal: to assess progress)
- Classroom Discussion (Double Daily Grade - to apply knowledge)
- Review Sheet (optional)
- Test and Essay (Test Grade: final assessment)

Quizzes are meant to show that student is making progress toward the final assessment of the unit. If quiz grades are low, please check that student is completing the assignments, studying the material, and/or attending tutorials.

Materials:
- Box of tissues for the classroom (please write your name on the bottom)
- Index Cards (you will need at least 5 packs, but not all at once)
- Map Pencils
- Blue and Black Ink Pens (for mapping)
- Sandwich size baggies and Sharpie to write on the baggies - one box
- Pencils, notebook paper, red pens as needed
- Mandatory: Planner - I have noticed that students who keep planners do better in my class - so you must bring a planner and write in it as we go over announcements each day!

Grading Criteria:
- Major Assessments, Tests, and Major Projects 60%
- Daily Work and Homework 40%

Writing Rubric

Unless otherwise stated when evaluating responses for essays and discussions, we use the basic Scoring Standard of:
- 5-Exceeds Expectations equivalent to a 100*
- 4-Meets Expectation equivalent to 90.
- 3-Somewhat Meets Expectations equivalent to 80
- 2--Barely Meets Expectations equivalent to 70
- 1-Did Not Meet Expectations equivalent to below 70
- 0-Did Not Try

* A 5 is an exception, not the norm. In order to receive a 5, a student must show a particularly innovative way of thinking.

Course Policies:
- Nine-weeks grading period average for all classes of course title will be comprised of 60% major grades, and 40% daily grades. There should be a minimum of 3 major grades recorded per 9 weeks.
- The school-wide retest policy is followed for major grades and guidelines are set per course for the steps needed to earn a retest for a maximum grade of 70. Grades may be averaged between first failing grade and retest grade to earn a score lower than a 70.
- LOW GRADES ON DAILY WORK:
  - Students may be allowed to redo an inadequate assignment provided reasonable effort was made by the student in the initial completion of the assignment. This will only be allowed three times per semester and will be recorded in the gradebook with an “R” next to the grade.
A maximum grade of 70 will be awarded.
- If missed assignment is a week late, it cannot be made up
- The procedure for the student redoing these three grades is up to my discretion.
- Work is considered late after class begins. Please turn in your assignments ahead of time.
- A major project will be accepted one class day late for a maximum of a 70.

Absences
- If a student is absent from class, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO COMMUNICATE AND INQUIRE ABOUT WORK THAT IS MISSED
  - For an excused absence, students will have 1 additional class period to turn in assignments for full credit.
  - For unexcused absences, missing assignments will be considered late, and be subject to the late work policy.
  - For UIL absences, student work is due on the next class day that is attended. Rescheduling of assignments/tests is up to the discretion of the teacher.

A Note on Respect

We will explore many different viewpoints this year. Not all of them will align with your own. However, we will learn and practice respecting all persons, their thoughts, ideas, and property- This policy includes anyone who enters our classroom at any time during the year. Should you disagree with any opinions put forth during a discussion, you must do so respectfully. For example you might say, “I appreciate your opinion, however, my opinion is ...” All conversation must adhere to this policy, in class and online.

Digital Citizenship Skills and Expectations
- Electronic devices are to be used in the classroom for class-related activities only and at the discretion of the teacher. Texting, gaming, or accessing social media during class time will not be tolerated. If in doubt, ask.
- All district guidelines stated in the student handbook will be followed. i.e. Devices will be taken up and turned in to the office.
- Student work should be original and authentic. Plagiarized work will not be accepted and will result in a score of “zero.” Honor Code action may also be taken for instances of plagiarism.