



Olympian High School

"Where Champions are Made"

Course Syllabus

World Geography

2012-2013



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Geography

Course Rationale:

The Sweetwater Union High School District requires four years of History/Social Science of which Geography fulfills one year of this requirement. The discipline of geography also provides students a foundation in the analytical and critical thinking skills they will need as progress through their social science classes.

Course Description:

In order to develop knowledgeable, active, and inquiring citizens of the world, an in-depth study of geography is imperative. A knowledge of geography will help prepare students to cope with the enormous complexities of contemporary life and give them a greater insight into the important economic, social, political and environmental issues affecting their daily lives. The World Geography course will consist of an in-depth examination of the study of geography.

The geography components of this course revolve around the five fundamental themes of geography and the nationally recognized standards of geography. The major content standards utilize geographic skills (reviewed and taught in the first unit/standard) to examine various regions of the world. The emphasis of the course is on geography and climate and their impact on the development, history and government, culture and lifestyle, and contemporary society of a region.

Course Outline:

The Ninth Grade World Geography course is divided into five thematic standards: physical geography, climate and vegetation, movement, cultures and lifestyles, and modern life and human-environment interaction. These standards are interwoven throughout the course, which is divided into geographic regions of study: the United States and Canada; Latin America; Europe and Eurasian republics; Southwest Asia (Middle East) and North Africa; and Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern and Southern Asia. For every geographic area, there is an objective developing each thematic standard.

Texts and Materials:

World Geography, Glencoe/McGraw Hill, c2000.

College Preparation ~ “Habits of Mind” and “College Readiness Skills”

The Geography curriculum provides an opportunity for students to be exposed to the critical thinking, reading and writing skills that are essential for success in college. Students will build intellectual perseverance through daily activities that challenge each student to develop a strong work ethic. Students will also be purposely introduced a variety of learning strategies that build on the student's metacognitive abilities. These strategies will encourage students to reflect on their own and other students' thinking. The World History curriculum will provide a rich content that promotes intellectual curiosity and the desire to know more about a subject.

In preparing students for success in both their high school career as well as their college experience it is essential that students develop academic literacy skills that prepare students for college.



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Student Expectations (Participation):

The assignments and activities in World Geography will require that students be active participants. Student learning will be based on a collaborative model where students work in pairs, triads, and large groups to make meaning of the academic content and skills taught in class. Students are also expected to come to class prepared with the materials that their teacher requires (see class rules and procedures for a detailed list of the materials the teacher requires).

Homework Policy:

Homework is an essential part of the learning process. It allows students an opportunity to apply new concepts and ideas to the social, economic, cultural, and environmental issue studied in the discipline of geography. Homework will be assigned on regular basis and will always be tied to what is learned in class. The work students do at home will be assessed and commented on in a way that will help students succeed on formative and summative assessments. Homework assignments will make up 10% of the students grade. NO LATEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Assessments:

The following is a list of assessments that students will be expected to master at a minimum of 70 percentile: Various formative quizzes, learning reflection logs, essential questions, formal writing assignments, summative exams, authentic assessments such as dialogue folders, brochures, debates, projects and other types of authentic assessments.

In addition, students will also take mandated state and the Sweetwater Union High School District End of Course Exams.

Mastery Model Statement:

Students who do not master assessments at a percentile of 70 will have one opportunity to retake the exam, within 2 weeks from the date in which the exam was given. The retake grade will replace the previous grade on the summative assessment. Students wishing to retake the exam will only be eligible for a retake after:

- informing parents of their present score and presenting signed notification to the teacher
- attending tutoring
- completing a review study guide and/or test corrections.

This will insure that students are adequately prepared to improve their grade on a retake.



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Grading Policy:

Assignment Category	% of Grade	Examples of Assignments
Assessments	80	Formative Quizzes/Tests Summative Exams Formal Writing Assignments The Final Exam is worth 10%.
Class Work	10	Cornell Notes, Vocabulary Activities, Summaries, Quickwrites, Reading Activities, Skillbuilders, Group Work, and Presentations.
Homework	10	Essential Questions, KWL, Dialogue Folders, Projects, Timelines, etc.

Course Pacing Calendar:

Standard Topics	Time Frame	Formal Writing skill and Topic
Disciplinary Thinking:	Week 1	
Unit 1: Geography Skills	Weeks 2- 3	Description: Country Essay
Unit 2: North America	Weeks 4-7	
Unit 3: Latin America	Weeks 8-11	Summarize: Deforestation Essay
Unit 4: Europe	Weeks 12- 15	
Unit 5: Russia	Weeks 16- 17	Relate and Apply: Command vs. Market Economy Essay
Semester 1 Final: End of Course Exam	Week 18 Dec 18,19,20	
Unit 6: North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia	Weeks 1-5	Analysis: Obstacles to development of the region Essay
Unit 7: Africa South of the Sahara	Weeks 6-9	
Unit 9: East Asia	Weeks 10-13	Synthesis: Newspaper on physical environment, and Modern Challenges of East Asia Essay
Unit 10: Southeast Asia	Weeks 14-17	Evaluation: Effect of Colonization Essay
Semester 2 Final: End of Course Exam	Week 19 June 4, 5, 6	



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Parent Acknowledgement

Good communication between teachers, students and parents is essential to maximize the success of students in high school. With this in mind, please take a moment to complete this syllabus acknowledgement and parent contact form and return it to me via your student. It will be counted as your student's first homework assignment.

Please provide as much of the requested information as you can. *Please print neatly.*

Student's Name: _____

Period: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Work Phone: _____

Father's Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Work Phone: _____