WORLD GEOGRAPHY SYLLABUS

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Office Hours: Any day of the week, just make an appointment!

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**Course Description**

Geography isn't just memorizing where places are on a map, although sometimes that's important. This course is a chance to explore the physical and cultural aspects of our world with a focus on our hometown, Chicago. We will...

...ask "Where?" and "Why?" over and over again

...travel out into the city

...create maps

...take photographs

...collect artifacts

...read and analyze everything we can get our hands on

...think, talk, and act like geographers

Geography is a great class to take freshman year because it gives students a chance to develop the necessary reading and writing skills that are essential for upper level Social Studies courses like US History. Plus, it’s really fun!

Required Materials

Students must have a **notebook** that will remain in the classroom and serve as a journal for the entire year. Each student must *also* have **his or her own organization system** that he or she brings on a daily basis. For example, a student might have a three ring binder with loose leaf, or another notebook with a folder. Any system to keep handouts and take notes will work, but it has to be specifically for Geography, not shared with another subject. Students should bring a **pen or pencil** each day.

Grading Policy

Categories: Scale:

Products: 33% A = 90% - 100%

Process: 33% B = 80% - 89%

Progress: 33% C = 70% - 79%

 D = 60% - 69%

 F = 59%

\*Products include final exams, final drafts of a project, exhibitions, portfolios, etc.

\*Process includes work habits, homework, participation, meeting deadlines, quizzes, bellringers, etc.

\*Progress includes critiques, reflections, growth between drafts, etc.

The Basics

Entering the Classroom

Students will take handouts from the front table (if applicable) then go to their class bin to get their journals. Next, they will go to their *assigned* seat and look at the board for the agenda, objectives, and bell ringer.

Turning in Work for a Grade

Teachers will check bellringers within the first 10 minutes of class for a stamp. They should be written in journals. Students will turn their other work in by hand or on Google Classroom (more information to follow). Shorter assignments will be returned as soon as possible, usually within two days. Larger assignments like final projects may take longer to grade.

Checking Grades

Students should check online via Gradebook or meet with teachers after school. Grades are updated weekly.

Late Work

Project based learning requires students to not only acquire content knowledge, but also work habits, hence our three grading categories. If students miss a deadline, they will lose points in one category, but can still earn points in another category. For example, if you miss a day where we write a journal reflection on our work, you can write your reflection when you get back to school for progress points, but you will lose your process points. All of the work we do for points is important, even if it’s late.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Plagiarism is passing off someone else’s work as your own. Students will receive a consequence, which varies based on the situation, but may include getting a zero or completing a new assignment. If you think someone else said it better than you, give them credit and cite their work! We will learn about citing work in class.

Technology in the Classroom

Students are responsible for taking care of school property and following the school’s technology policy. Students should never access a website that is not part of the assignment (ie. Twitter, NBA.com, etc.). If a student is using a device inappropriately, they will receive a consequence that varies according to the situation. Students will use the same computer every time so if any damage is done to the machine we can easily identify who used it last.

Hall Pass

We have one pass available in case students have to use the restroom (second floor only). 92 minute blocks are long, so we understand the need for a break. If students consistently ask to leave the room, the hall pass will not be granted. If you need a break but don’t have to use the bathroom, just ask to stand up and walk around the classroom and we will probably say yes!

Honors Option

All students are welcome to opt in to Honors for increased GPA points (A = 4.5 instead of 4). The opt in date is the last day of the first quarter. Once a student opts in, he or she cannot opt out for that semester. In order to earn the Honors credit, students have to complete **ALL** the following:

-One additional meeting time a week outside of regular class hours (supplemental activities, field work, or peer tutoring)

-A quarterly event (Chicago Humanities Festival, Geocache hunt, etc.)

-Research paper or essay each semester

-Homework and project challenges

Expectations

- Arrive to class on time, in uniform, and with all required materials.

- No cellphones, food, or drink in class.

- Treat others the way you want to be treated. This includes the language you use and your physical presence.

* Stop all discussion and movement when the attention signal is used.

Success in World Geography

- Ask questions. Put them on the mustache board!

- Stay organized.

* Come to office hours.
* Stay positive! We all make mistakes and we can use them as learning opportunities.
* Be mindful of the three Cs! *Contribute, Collaborate, and Celebrate*

Course Outline (subject to change)

Unit 1: Basic Concepts

Unit 2: Population and Migration

Unit 3: World Cultures

Unit 4: Politics and Economies

Unit 5: Globalization and Urbanization

Common Core Standards

To read each standard we will cover this year, please see <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>.

\*I have read the course syllabus and agree to its content. \*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents**: What is the best way to contact you if we need to discuss your student?

PHONE or EMAIL

Please provide your contact information here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Students**: Are you considering opting in to Honors? YES or NO