

World Geography

Course Syllabus

Mr. Divis

1 Credit

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World Geography takes a look at the world through the lens of the five themes of geography:

- Location
- Place
- Human Environment Interaction
- Movement
- Regions

What is geography? Geography is the study of where things are located on Earth's surface and the reasons for the location. The word *geography*, invented by the ancient Greek scholar Eratosthenes, is based on two Greek words. *Geo* means "Earth," and *graphy* means "to write." Geographers ask two simple questions: where and why. Where are people and activities located across Earth's surface? Why are they located in particular places?

Geography is both a physical and a social science. We will be studying both human and physical geography during this semester. Human geography focuses primarily on human interactions and activities. Physical geography focuses on the natural environment.

Despite the many differences between nations and people in the world, we are living in a more unified world economically, culturally, and environmentally. The actions of a particular corporation or country affect people around the world.

In general, the focus of this class is to think globally. During the semester we will be learning about the constantly changing and diverse world in which we live.

Units to be Covered

- **Political and Physical Geography**
 - *focusing on basic geography knowledge of where people live, the diversity of the natural world, and the similarities and differences between nations*
- **Natural Resources and Environmental Issues**
 - *focusing on water, oil, gold, food, and other resources and the global competition that revolves around them*
- **Population and Migration**
 - *focusing on where people live, why they live there, and trends of urbanization that affect people and their nations, as well as the causes behind migrations of people both within and between nations*

- **Globalization and Trade**
 - *focusing on issues that lead to the interconnectedness of the world and its impact on both the developing and the developed world*
- **Government and Economic Systems**
 - *focusing on democracy, communism, socialism, and capitalism*

How Each Unit May/Will Be Taught

This class is taught with the idea that everyone needs to be involved with our exploration of world diversity and interconnectedness. Each class you may be asked to do one or more of the following learning experiences:

- ♦ participate in the learning process by actively being involved in class discussions, group work, presentations, speeches, role plays, and other activities
- ♦ listen to music or studying the artwork and culture of a civilization
- ♦ read articles and books for information and to make connections to demonstrate your ability to utilize this information
- ♦ complete a map, chart or graph assignment
- ♦ organize your thoughts into paragraph responses, letters, and essays
- ♦ research information to further classroom learning

Students will be responsible for writing research papers, giving formal presentations in front of the class, completing projects, writing speeches, etc. to enhance their understanding of the major themes and concepts of world culture.

This is a challenging course that requires students put a lot of effort into the concepts and themes that we are studying. There is not an overwhelming amount of homework assigned, but it is necessary for success and understanding for the students to review their notes every night. This course also requires students to plan ahead and budget their time for the large projects, presentations, and papers that will be assigned.

Resources

We will utilize various materials and sources in this class, from news articles, parts of textbooks, books, films, PowerPoint presentations, notes, and various other sources. Therefore it is important for you to be in attendance each and every day. If you miss a class or are tardy, it is YOUR responsibility to make up your work or get the notes either before class or after class; during class is not acceptable.

We will also be reading three books during the semester, one each quarter, that will add to our study of the modern world. The books we will be reading are:

- I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala* by Rigoberta Menchu
- 1984* by George Orwell

What you need for this class

- 3-ring binder where you will need to keep all handouts, readings, homework, and past tests for the entire semester
- notebook for notes (loose leaf paper is not acceptable for notes and will not be accepted)
- loose leaf paper for class work
- pen/pencil and highlighter

Need Help?

I am always available for students who have questions or who need extra help. I typically am at school at 7am and will stay as late as needed. I strongly encourage students to take advantage of this and get help before it is too late. I can be reached at the school at either (802) 463-3944 ext. 263 or cdivis@wnesu.net.

Classroom Expectations

The classroom expectations are as follows:

1. Follow directions
2. Be seated before the bell rings
3. No swearing, negative comments, put downs or bullying
4. Don't disrupt the learning process (ex. talking, off task, disrupting others)
5. Be prepared for class! (notebook, paper, pencil, book, homework)

Failure in meeting these expectations will result in the following action:

1. Warning
2. Time after class
3. 15 minutes after school and parent phone call
4. 45 minutes after school and parent phone call
5. Buddy room/Administration

The following are additional expectations in the classroom:

- Have respect for individual ideas and opinions, especially if they might be different than yours. It is great to debate an idea, but NEVER put down another student because of a belief.
- No food or drink, other than water, in the classroom
- Pay attention and be on task while in class
- Be a contributing member of this class, which means taking an active role in each and every activity and class discussion
- Take responsibility for your actions

Grading

Your grade will depend on your performance in the following areas:

1. class attendance, behavior, and participation
2. on time and accurate completion of work assigned

3. writing assignments (speeches, letters, editorials, etc.)
4. long term research paper, persuasive essays, presentations, etc.
5. performance on quizzes, tests, and exams

Homework:

All assignments, as well as their due dates, will be on Mr. Divis' webpage (<http://mrdivis.yolasite.com/>), which can be accessed through the BFUHS website, <http://www.bfuhs.org/>, clicking on the Social Studies department page, and then clicking on Mr. Divis. Besides homework information, you can also access course syllabi, Social Studies course descriptions, an MLA Writing Guide, Reading Recommendations, and other useful information for students and parents.

Make-up Work and Extra Credit:

It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed! If you are sick and miss a day of school, then you get one school day to make that work up. Any work turned in late will only be graded as 50% of the total worth of the assignment. Students will only have one week after the assignment was due to get 50% of the total grade; after that the student will receive a 0 for the assignment.

If a student had prior knowledge (ex. in class when it was assigned) of a test, homework assignment, or presentation, then the day they are back in class from an absence that assignment will be expected, whether it is taking a test, making a presentation, or turning in homework. If not turned in or ready, it will be considered late or will be a 0.

Extra credit will only be given on a class-wide basis. No individual extra credit work will be given out.

Make-up Tests:

Students may re-take a test, regardless of their grade, if they schedule two (2) meetings with me to take place within one (1) week of receiving their returned test: a 45-min. after school study session with me and an after school meeting with me to take the re-take. All re-takes in this course are essay tests and the score on the re-take will replace the original grade.

If a student received below a 70% on a test, then they are **required** to attend a 45-min. after school study session with me within one (1) week of receiving their returned test and are highly urged to take advantage of a re-take test. If a student does not attend this mandatory after school study session, then they will be referred to Mr. Broadley.

Make-up Essays:

In terms of re-writing essays, students are always allowed to re-write an essay. To take advantage of this, the student must schedule one (1) meeting with me to take place within one (1) week of receiving their returned essay: a 45-min. after school session with me to go over your essay and look at ways to improve it. Students have one (1) week to turn in the re-written essay. The new grade will be accepted as the student's grade on the essay.

If a student received below a 70% on an essay, then they are **required** to re-write the essay within one (1) week of receiving their returned essay. If a student does not turn in this newly re-written essay after one week, then they will be sent to after school Homework Lab daily until the essay is turned in.

No excuses will be accepted!

Participation:

You will start the class with 100 participation points each quarter. Points will be deducted for those students who fall asleep in class, are late for class, are disruptive in class, do not bring materials to class, and those students who refuse to answer questions or to read. There is a difference between not knowing an answer and giving a general response of “I don’t know” when you are asked something in class. In order to learn, effort must be given and providing “I don’t know” answers when asked questions in class shows a lack of effort. If you do not actually know the answer, you should look it up in your notes or textbook. Your total number of participation points will be entered in the grade book at the end of each quarter.

Substitute Policy

Students are expected to behave for a substitute teacher just as they would for Mr. Divis. If there is a substitute in class, they have the authority as any teacher would, and I have given them directions to leave a list of all student names who are disruptive, insubordinate, or rude to them or anyone in class. If the substitute writes down the entire class as being disruptive, insubordinate, or rude, then the entire class will have a 45-minute mandatory after school detention in my room. If one or a number of students have their names written up, then they will be served with a detention by Mr. Broadley, as well as a 45-minute mandatory after school detention in my room.

Cell phones and iPods:

Cell phones and/or other electronic devices are prohibited in class. The first time you are seen using one of these devices (i.e. texting, looking at the time, etc.) during class, it will be confiscated by the teacher and you will get it back at the end of class. If you are seen using it a second time, it will be confiscated by the teacher and will only be given back to the student’s parent/guardian. If you refuse to turn it over to the teacher, you will be sent to the office immediately for insubordination. To prevent your property from ending up in the teacher’s hands, DO NOT even bring it to class.

Restroom/Hall Pass:

You will ONLY be allowed to leave the class for any purpose after the first 20 minutes of class. Do not ask me to use the restroom or go to your cubby before class begins because you will not be given permission to be late to class. Without your agenda, you will not be allowed to leave the room.

Cheating and plagiarism:

Cheating and/or copying work from another student, book, website, etc. is a major offense. If caught cheating, the student will receive a 0 on the assignment; if copying off another student with the other student’s knowledge, then both students receive a 0. Parents/guardians will be notified of these situations and consequences, as well.

Plagiarism is when a student does not give credit to an author or producer of a piece of work (i.e. music, books, magazines, encyclopedias, web sites, etc.). If a student is caught plagiarizing, the student will receive a 0 on the assignment and their parents will be notified. This is an easy punishment, as many universities and colleges expel students for plagiarism!

Grading:

Each quarter counts 45% towards the semester average, with the semester exam worth 10% of the semester grade.

Quarter -- 45%
Quarter -- 45%
Semester Exam -- 10%

Letter grades are assigned based on the following table:

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89 | B |
| 70-79 | C |
| 67-69 | Not Yet (NY) |
| 66 ↓ | F |

**In order to get credit for a class, you need to get a C- or better for your semester average.

I only tell students what their grades are outside of class hours. It is YOUR responsibility to stay up to date as to your grade, and I am more than willing to share this information with you before and after school or during snack time, but NOT during class.

Not Yet (NY) and/or Incomplete (I):

It is the student's responsibility to come see me if they received either a Not Yet (NY) or Incomplete (I) on their report card to get the assignment(s) necessary for them to improve their grade. Students have one (1) week to come and see me after report cards are mailed out to get their assignment(s).

If students do not come and see me to get their assignment(s), or if they fail to complete the assignment satisfactorily, then their grade will become an F.

World Geography Course Syllabus

After reading the syllabus for World Geography, which includes the following:

- information about what we will be studying throughout the semester,
- how each unit may/will be taught,
- the resources that we will use and those that students need for the class,
- Mr. Divis' contact information,
- the classroom expectations and consequences,
- the grading policy,
- the make-up work policy for homework, tests, and essays,
- the class participation requirement,
- the policy for when there is a substitute teacher in the class,
- the cell phones and iPods policy, and
- the cheating and plagiarism policy,

I fully understand the expectations for what this semester-long course will entail.

Student Name (printed)

Student signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature