Joplin High School

World Geography

Social Studies

One Semester for .5 Credits

Syllabus and Expectations

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**Course Description:**

In this class we will be examining and exploring the world we live in through the lens of geography. This involves understanding how physical and human processes shape the earth along with examining the different regions in the world through the 5 themes of geography (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region).

**Instructional Practices:**

In World Geography we will spend a lot of time thinking and questioning. We do this thinking and questioning through reading, writing, and projects that expose us to the problems, issues, and experiences of the world around us.

**Course Goals/Objectives: (Common Course Standards)**

1. Use geographic tools to acquire, process, and report information about people, places, and environments from a spatial perspective.
2. Compare and contrast the physical, cultural, human characteristics of places and regions on Earth.
3. Solve problems effectively by characterizing a problem through identification of variables and relationships and moving to a solution.
4. Analyze the causes and effects of population change on the characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth’s diverse populations and cultures, including the impact of demographics and the fact that they are constantly shifting.
5. Analyze the patterns and networks of economic interdependence between places and regions on Earth.
6. Analyze how the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of the Earth’s surface.
7. Analyze the interaction between humans and the physical environment.
8. Use geographic studies (e.g., demographics) to interpret the past and present and to plan or predict future events.

**Main Class Goals:**

1. Be able to locate and identify the 50 states of the United States
2. Be able to read and interpret maps
3. Be able to understand and explain the relationship between the environment and people
4. Be able to understand what culture is and how it impacts people’s relationship with each other and with their environment.

**Topics Covered:**

1. Social Studies Basics
2. Geography Essentials
3. Physical and Human Geography
4. Globalization
5. Cultures related to the different regions of the world
   1. North America
   2. South America
   3. Europe & Eurasia
   4. North Africa/Middle East
   5. Sub-Sahara Africa
   6. Southeast Asia/Oceana

**Special Projects, Writing Activities, and Assessments**

*(Subject to Change)*

* Bell Work Writings
* Social Studies Basics Test
* Physical Geography Project
* World Regions Assignment
* Portfolio Website
* Final Exam

**Special Resources:**

1. Schoology
2. Google Apps account
3. Weebly account

**Supplies and Fees:**

1. A flash drive would be a great thing to invest in to back up all of your school work
2. You should always have a pen or pencil and paper would be handy. We do not always use the computer.

**The Rule:**

**Respect yourself and everyone in the classroom.** This includes my right to teach and your classmates right to learn. No put downs of other people based on their race, religion, ethnic background, skin color, native language, gender, sexual preference, intelligence, body shape, or body size.

**Class Expectations:**

1. Use electronic devices for instructional purposes only, as directed by the instructor.
2. Demonstrate respect to others, self, and property.
3. Use school appropriate language.
4. Follow instructions immediately, exactly, and without arguing.
5. Be on time to school and class.

**Grading Policy:**

I grade on point system where each assignment is worth a certain number of points and those points from each assignment are averaged together to form your grade.

A 90% - 100%

B 80% - 89%

C 70% - 79%

D 60% - 69%

F 0% - 59%

In this course I will be evaluating you on your content knowledge and your behavior/participation. This means that there are **3 sections of your grade**. The first is your **content knowledge**, which makes up **70% of your grade**. The second is **participation**, which contains things like how much or how little you participate in class and are on task during class work. Participation will **constitute 20%** of your total grade. The **last 10%** is reserved for your **final exam** given at the end of the semester. I do allow students to redo and fix assignments or tests that a student did not do well on. There is a form on my website that a student would fill out if they would want to redo something. The completion of the assignment or test would have to be done with me in school during Eagle Time, before school, or after school.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy**

Students are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity while in attendance at Joplin High School. Each student is expected to do his or her own work. This includes test-taking, homework, class assignments and the original creation of essays, compositions, term papers and scientific research. Sharing work with another student during tests, on in-class essays or assignments, or on homework is considered cheating. Having access to answers or calculator or computer information constitutes intent to cheat. All work submitted by students should be a true reflection of their efforts and abilities. If submitted work is not, then the student has manifested unacceptable academic behavior. The following criteria are considered cheating:

* Claiming credit for work not the product of one’s own honest effort 
* Providing unwarranted access to materials or information so that credit may be dishonestly claimed by others 
* Knowledge and toleration of either of the foregoing

Any behavior, which can be defined as cheating, represents a violation of mutual trust and respect essential to education at Joplin High School. Students who cheat should expect to be confronted by their teacher and/or a principal and may receive the following penalties:

* **Zero on the assignment**
* **Notification of parents**
* **Minimum 3-day assignment to ISD or ASD**

If a student is found to have cheated a second time, the student will be referred to an assistant principal. **Consequences may include: Drop from the class, loss of credit and an “F” appearing on the transcript.** No replacement course will be allowed.

**Late Work and Make-up Work**

Late work will be accepted up to the time semester grades are due. Assignments can be turned in for credit up to 1 week before the semester is over. To receive full credit on the assignment, it must be turned in on the due date. However, I want you to turn in any work that you complete. If you turn in the assignment within 2 weeks after the due date you can receive up to a B or C depending on the quality of work. After that 2-week period the highest grade you can receive is a D. Any grade is better than no grade in my opinion, so please turn in your work.

It is your responsibility to get your makeup work when you come back to class. All class work and assignments will be posted on the class website. Please make sure to check the class calendar section of the website for the weekly postings. In general you have 2 days to complete any make-up work you have. If you need more time, please come talk to me about it.

**Tutoring:**

It is my goal to help you become successful students and people, so I try to have time every week scheduled open for any tutoring or help that you need. Even if you just need a space to work and collaborate, I want to do what I can facilitate that. I will post my weekly tutoring/slash open classroom schedule on the calendar located on the geography page of my website. Usually mornings are best for me and that is when most of tutoring hours will be, but if you need to stay after school we can arrange that.

**Communication:**

I believe that communication is vital to having a classroom that will work for all of us and allow us to learn and work together. I encourage you to communicate with me about your life, our class, and whatever else you feel you need to communicate with me. I will be doing the same with you. I will also encourage parent communication and will be reaching out to your parents/guardians about what is happening in class. You can make an appointment to meet with me before or after school or you can email me, which can be faster. If any student or parent wants to stay up on class activities, test, or homework there are a couple options:

1. Email = at [danielleyen@joplinschools.org](mailto:danielleyen@joplinschools.org)
2. Website = dyenjhs.weebly.com
3. Remind 101 = this is a new thing I am trying that allows students and parents to receive a text message about what is happening with class. I highly encourage you to sign up for this program. What you have to do is text @yendeo2013 to 417-208-2162