



## **GEOGRAPHY (SGS110) CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES (SGS115)**

### **Course Description**

Geography is a one-semester social science course designed for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. As an interdisciplinary introduction to social science, the course provides the foundation for the later study of World and United States History, Economics, and United States Government. The course recognizes that the contemporary reality of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the increasing influence of other nations on daily life. Geography uses the five themes of social science as a springboard to understanding the characteristics of the world's major cultures, countries, and economies. Current global issues that particularly impact a region will be studied in depth during that unit.

### **Fall Semester**

**Unit 1:** High School Experience

**Unit 2:** Basics of Geography

**Unit 3:** North America

**Unit 4:** Latin America

**Unit 5:** Europe

### **Spring Semester**

**Unit 6:** Russia & the Republics

**Unit 7:** Africa

**Unit 8:** Southwest Asia

**Unit 9:** South Asia

**Unit 10:** East Asia

### **Teacher**

Mr. Messineo

Vincent-Messineo@scusd.edu

916-433-5200 x 1807

Grades can be checked online via **Infinite Campus** at [www.scusd.edu](http://www.scusd.edu)

### **Textbook**

*World Geography* (McDougal Littell) c. 2003, Arreola, Daniel; Smith-Deal, Marci; Petersen, James F.; and Sanders, Rickie.

### **Required Materials**

- Binder with dividers (Students will be required to keep important notes in it for a grade)
- Notebooks, pencils, pens (colored pencils, scissors and glue sticks recommended)

### **Grading Policy**

Grades will be based on the total points earned in the following grade categories and then weighted according to the following percentages.

- Classwork/Homework= 30%
- Exams and Quizzes= 30%
- Research Papers/Projects= 20%
- Final Exam= 20%

***Your points in all four categories will be weighted to determine your overall grade. Keep all papers pertaining to your grade.*** It is your responsibility to prove any discrepancies with the grade sheet. Grade updates detailing your individual progress will be posted regularly in class.

90-100%= A            70-79%= C        0-59%= F  
80-89%= B            60-69%= D

### **Course Objectives**

In addition to the geographic skills and concepts described in the above course description, students in Geography will learn the following communication, language, and research skills throughout the year:

- Writing in defense of an argument using the Jane Schaffer Chunk Paragraph Model
- Thesis statement development
- Supporting a thesis with evidence
- Utilizing the library and internet for research
- Evaluate information and make judgments between conflicting interpretations
- Citing Sources using MLA Format
- Public Speaking

These critical thinking skills will be built upon each year in subsequent social sciences courses and coincide with the Common Core Standards. Our goal is to have each student capable of writing a college level research paper by the time they graduate.

### **Academic Expectations**

- **Homework** – expect it! Both short-term assignments and long-term projects and research will require your attention at home most afternoons or evenings. Work should be completed prior to the start of class on its given due date. Assignments are due immediately when they are instructed to be passed forward. **Late work is unacceptable.**
- **Writing for Understanding** – writing assignments, which ask you to synthesize information from more than one source, write persuasively in defense of a perspective, or respond to and analyze contemporary and historic events, will be assigned regularly.
- **Memorization** – Students will be quizzed on major landforms and bodies of water as well as countries and capital cities of each region of study.
- **Time Management** is an essential skill for academic success. Students are required to record daily agendas and homework assignments in their planner.
- **Studying-** A complete and well-organized binder will greatly assist students in preparing for quizzes and tests as most of the questions will come from the notes.

## Class Rules/Behavior Expectations

- ❖ **Be on time, prepared to learn and work. This includes being in compliance with our school's dress code. You may not enter my classroom wearing a non-JFK ball cap, headphones, talking on a phone, texting on a phone, or listening to music without headphones.**
- ❖ **Everyone will be treated with respect.**
- ❖ **No one will be allowed to disrupt the learning process of anyone else.**
- ❖ **No food, beverages, or gum are allowed at anytime.**
- ❖ **Attendance is critical. Any student with an unexcused absence won't be allowed to make up missed assignments.**
- ❖ **Whether or not you can make up assignments if you have been suspended from school is at my discretion.**
- ❖ **Students are allowed to have cell phones in their possession but they are not allowed out in class. If I don't see it or hear it, there will be no issues. If I see it or hear it, it will be confiscated and a parent/guardian will have to pick it up in the office. Refusal to hand over a cell phone when asked will result in a referral to the discipline office.**
- ❖ **Bathroom passes will be given if Mr. Messineo feels it is an appropriate time unless policy is being abused.**
- ❖ **Let the positive vibes flow. Negativity will not be allowed.**

I have read and understand what is expected of me in World Geography.

Student name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand what is expected of my student in World Geography.

Parent/Guardian name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_