



**JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL**  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE



## **GEOGRAPHY/CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES 9 - CP**

This course provides freshmen with a greater understanding of world geography and cultures. As an interdisciplinary introduction to social sciences, the course provides the foundation for the later study of World and United States History, Economics, and United States Government. This course will introduce and develop skills that will be needed in subsequent classes. Such as mapping, analyzing social change over time, and comparing and contrasting diverse cultures. Students are expected to improve academic reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. This course meets the “A” requirement as a History-Social Science class for the UC “A-G” requirements.

### **2016-2017 Contact information:**

#### **Mr. Marcos Pineda**

##### **Room C-211**

Phone: 916-433-5200 ext. 1211

Email: [marcos-pineda@scusd.edu](mailto:marcos-pineda@scusd.edu)

JFK WEB Site: <http://www.ifk.scusd.edu/teacher-profile/marcos-pineda>

#### **Textbook**

Arreola, Daniel & Deal, Marci & Petersen, James. *World Geography*.  
Evanston, IL: McDougal Littell, 2003.

The book will be used exclusively in class. Students typically will not need to bring it home.

#### **Other Texts**

Students will also use a variety of supplementary materials, newspaper articles, periodicals, and internet sites for research of different perspectives and interpretations of the issues covered in class.

#### **Materials Required for This Course:**

- **The tools of a scholar: a pen, pencil, and highlighter.** Although I do loan out these things if you forget or can't get one at this time, you need to go out and buy your own. Kennedy High School feels very strongly that **ACTIVE** reading includes a pencil and highlighter, so, please get your own.
- **A notebook and binder paper:** You will need to maintain either a section of your binder or a notebook that will be specifically dedicated for this class.
- Colored Highlighters (Yellow, Blue, Pink and Green)
- **Textbook.** We actually will rarely use it, but by law, you must have one.

**The skills we will develop in World Geography:**

- Group Work
- Map reading/interpretation skills
- Analyzing, discovering, and creating relationships between statistical data (information in the form of numbers), the physical landscape, and the cultural components of a country
- Reading comprehension skills (finding the main point, summarizing, etc)
- Organizational skills
- Spatial understanding
- Visual analysis
- Metacognition (fancy word for thinking about our thinking)
- Memorization (the mnemonic process)
- Healthy discussion, listening, and sharing skills
- Goal Setting
- College & Career Readiness
- Technology: Podcasts, Web Quests, Blogs, GPS, etc.

**Common Core State Standards:**

- Reading – Close Reading of Text (both fictional and non-fictional)
- Writing – Essays every week; Mini -Term Paper, 3 pages minimum (Spring Semester)
- Speaking – Presentations (Individual and Group), Student Run Classrooms
- Listening - Collaborative discussions, Note Taking

**The regions we will cover, in order:**

Fall Semester: North America (U.S.), Latin America /South America, and Europe

Spring Semester: Africa, Middle East, Asia/Southeast Asia,

**Classroom Procedures:**

- Everyday, you must be in your seat before the bell rings or you are tardy. I am VERY strict about this, so please don't lose track of time when coming from another class.
- Everyday, you will immediately start the warm-up that is on the board, in your binder or notebook.
- All in-class handouts must be carefully stored in a folder. In this class, we save a lot of work because we use it later on in the year. Don't throw anything away unless you are given the green light to do so.
- You are not allowed to put your folder away and clean unless given permission to do so. I excuse you, not the bell.
- One thing we do not tolerate at Kennedy High School is "no work". Even if you are not bothering someone, if you are just sitting there, you will not be excused to your next class until

your work is finished (I am dead serious). If serious effort was shown, you may finish it at home. Your completed work is your ticket out the door!

### **The Law...of my classroom:**

- **Respect...yourself.** I can't force you to work and I know you don't want me to. If you don't want to stress, if you don't want the drama for you and your family, respect yourself and ALWAYS do the best you can. Have a positive attitude, set high standards for yourself (I will) and do all that you can to achieve. Walk with your head up high knowing that you are becoming smarter by the minute.
- **Respect...others.** This means your classmates and me. I am not here to pretend I am your mom or dad, but I have to make sure that all students in my classroom are comfortable and safe. Choosing to threaten my comfortable and safe classroom will not only complicate my life and your life, but it will disrupt the learning process and there will be firm consequences. Practice the following daily: listening attentively, being polite, communicating as clearly as you can, waiting your turn, and doing nice things even when you are not asked to.
- **Respect... your environment.** You are in high school now and there are 100 students walking in and out of my classroom everyday. If just a couple people in every classroom leave trash behind, don't put supplies back, and take supplies out of the classroom without my consent, we will be learning in a dump. There will be consequences for people that disrespect our classroom.
- **NOTE:** ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT TO BE SEEN IN CLASS. AT ALL. YOU WILL GET ONE WARNING AND AFTER THAT I WILL CONFISCATE IT. **EXCEPT** when given permission by the teacher when the class is using them to participate in a class assignment!

**GRADING SYSTEM:** Almost every single thing we do will have some sort of point value. The things that are more difficult or take more time will be worth more. It is that simple. I enter points daily and check, in class, when assignments are due.

**A = 100 – 90**

**B = 89 – 80**

**C = 79 – 70**

**D = 69 – 60**

**F = 59 – 0**

### **Grading Categories:**

All assignments are worth points and grades will be calculated based on the amount of points earned in each category. Most work will be completed in class, during class time. Work will be divided into the following categories:

- Knowing (40%) Demonstration of content knowledge, intended to assess comprehension
- Product (40%) Demonstration of task mastery, intended to assess progress towards skills-based objective
- Process (20%) Practice necessary towards content and skills mastery, most daily classwork

**Check grades on IC via the SCUSD website or the John F. Kennedy High School website.****Attendance/Tardy Policy:**

- If you are tardy you **must have an appropriate Tardy Pass** either from a Hall Monitor or an Administrator!
- **When you are absent** you miss valuable class time and activities that cannot be replicated. It is vital you are in class. No make-up will be given for missed, in-class assignments for unexcused assignments, but there will be extra credit opportunities to earn the points back. If you know you are going to be out please see me to get your work.
- If you are tardy without a pass three or more times you will receive an hour of school detention and a call home. Every following tardy will result in the same result.

**Classroom Rules:****Be Respectful:****• To all of your classmates.**

1. Do not call people names or say rude things.
2. Do not do things that interfere with other people's ability to learn.
3. Participate in group discussions and work.
4. The "Golden Rule" (Treat others how you would like to be treated).

**• To me.**

1. Do not interrupt me while I am talking to the class.
2. Come to class on time and prepared
3. Complete assigned work
4. Give your best effort in thought and production.

**• To yourself.**

1. Get all your work in.
2. Learn as much as you can.
3. Have fun.
4. Do a lot of things you really like.
5. Feel good about yourself.
6. Know that there is nothing in this course beyond your comprehension.

**Daily In-class Procedures:**

- Take off your hats and hoods, turn off your cell phone, and put it away. If I hear or see your cell phone during class it will be taken and given to the VP.
- Sit down quietly and complete the warm as soon as possible.
- Be on task and **participating**.
- When the bell rings at the end of class make sure your seats are straight and there is no trash in your area and all our class materials are returned to the correct place. Then I will dismiss you.
- No food or drinks allowed in class. (Only exception is for bottled water with a screw tight top.)

***All of the following go along with or exceed the requirements found in the JFK Handbook; please also refer to those for further program and school policies.***

**Policies for Classwork, Participation, Homework, and Extra Credit Assignments:**

- **Classwork** is a vital part of our day to day lessons and your ability to participate, behave respectfully, and contribute plays heavily into that portion of your grade. Being off task (talking, sleeping, and messing around) is disrespectful to yourself, me, and your classmates and will result in a loss of participation points for the day.
- **Homework** from a different class is to be done on your own time.
- **Late Work will not be accepted** as I give lots of time therefore my policy is very strict.
- **Extra Credit Assignments** – Will be posted as the school year goes on.

**Correspondence:**

With the exception of Thursdays (Staff and Department meetings) I am here every day after school for a minimum of a half hour (It is still a good idea to tell me you are coming by). I can also be reached via e-mail and phone for questions and comments. The onus is on you the student to seek me out for help or clarification. Parents please also make use of the above contact information; I am happy to respond to any and all questions and provide you with some honest and quick real time feedback about your student's progress in the class.

**If you (student and/or parents) have any questions/concerns, follow these steps:**

- 1). **Email me.**
- 2). Check IC for Grades (if there is a dispute, contact me by email, phone, before/after class)
- 3). Check IC for Class News (if there is a question about whether there is/was scheduled Classwork, Homework, Projects, and/or Extra Credit Assignments).

**Compliance Issue – Parent & Student Sign-off for Syllabus**

A Student/Parent sign-off sheet will be sent home with students during the First Week of school. It must be returned by 9/9/2016!