



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



GEOGRAPHY (SGS110) CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES (SGS115)

Geography/Contemporary Global Issues is a year-long social science course designed for 9th 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. This course also blends in contemporary global issues with every unit of study. This course will introduce and develop skills that will be needed in subsequent social studies classes, such as mapping, analyzing social change over time, and comparing and contrasting diverse cultures.

Ms. Salomon
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Textbook

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

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

Required Materials:

All students will be expected to have a notebook and a folder for class.

Grading Policy

- I. **Grading Scale** – All letter grades will be determined based on the following grading scale. A curve will not be used.
 - 100%-90% = A
 - 89%-80% = B
 - 79%-70% = C
 - 69%-60% = D
 - 59% and below
- II. **Late Work/ Make-Up Work** –You are responsible for coming to get your make-up work from me. *Tests must be made up within one week of returning from an absence.* Acceptance of late work will depend upon the assignment, however, I will accept most work late for partial credit. No late work for the quarter will be accepted after the following dates:
 - i. First Quarter: 10/21
 - ii. First Semester: 1/13
 - iii. Third Quarter: 3/24
 - iv. Second Semester: 6/1
- III. **Extra Credit** – Extra credit opportunities may arise throughout the year; however they will be determined by class behavior. Do not expect enough extra credit to raise your grade from failing to passing.

Course Outline

First semester:
1. North America
2. South America
3. Europe

Second Semester:
4. Africa
5. SW Asia (aka The Middle East)
6. East Asia
7. Oceania
8. Australia

Contemporary issues and current events will be embedded throughout the year.

Course Objectives

In addition to the geographic skills and concepts described in the above course description, students in Geography will learn academic reading, writing and speaking skills. A lot of attention will be focused on how to interact with text and how to think critically about what you've read.

Classroom Behavior and Expectations

- A. Be Prepared** – Come to class prepared with your own paper, pen/pencil, notebook etc. Have your homework completed before class starts. Do not waste my time by asking me or your classmates for supplies during class time, or I will keep you after class and take up your time.
- B. Be Prompt** – Students must be in the classroom and in their seats when the bell rings. A note from another teacher or an administrator will excuse a tardy; however the school policy will be followed if excessive tardies occur. Excessive tardies will also result in a referral and will lower students' citizenship grades. At the end of class, stay seated. I excuse you from class, not the bell. Leaving class without my permission will result in a referral.
- C. Be Positive** – I expect positive attitudes in my classroom. "I can't" is not an excuse for laziness. Do your work, try your best. You can and you will. I expect you to always work your hardest. Turning in work that you are not proud of is unacceptable.
- D. Be Polite** – Always be respectful, polite, helpful and honest with your peers and with me. I will respect you, and I expect you to respect me. When I am talking, you are not. When you are talking, others are not.
- E. Be Productive** - There will not be excessive homework in this class. Most homework will be classwork that you did not finish while in class. Use your time wisely and productively and you will rarely have to do work outside of the classroom.
- F. Always Use Your Own Words** – Never, ever, ever copy someone else's work and turn it in as your own. You will receive an immediate zero on the assignment and you will not be able to make it up.
- G. Always Ask** – If you have questions, do not ever hesitate to come and ask me. I am here to help you do your best, but I cannot help you if you don't let me know that you need help.
- H. Food or Drink** – Aside from water, please keep all food and drink in your backpack during class.
- I. Cell Phones/ iPods** – Cell phones and iPods are not allowed in class. Administration has instructed teachers to write a referral and send any student with their phone or iPod out down to the office.
- J. Bathroom** – You may use the bathroom after the first 15 minutes or prior to the final 15 minutes of class. You will be given four bathroom passes to be used over the semester. If you choose not to use your passes, each one of them is worth 10 extra credit points (for up to 40 points).

***Note: Any part of this syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.**