



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



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

Geography/Contemporary Global Issues is a year-long 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. 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. Reilley

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Check grades on Infinite Campus via [www.scusd.edu](http://www.scusd.edu)

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:

A classroom folder/notebook will be supplied and kept in the classroom.

Grading Policy

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

Course Outline

First semester:

North America

South America

Europe

Second Semester:

Africa

SW Asia (aka The Middle East)

East Asia

Oceania

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.

Academic Expectations

- **We are here to learn together. We are a community as well as individuals and we should each remember that when engaging in things that distract from that mission, such as texting, eating, drinking, working on other things, sleeping, rude behavior, long walks to the bathroom, etc.**
- **Attendance** is vital. Should you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you've missed.
- Completing work on time is critical to ensure learning.
- Students will enter the classroom ready for class. This means removing any hats, hoods and earphones and putting away cellphones or Ipods.
- As soon as the bell rings, students will be working on the warm up question.