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

GEOGRAPHY and CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES (Courses SGS110 and SGS115)  
School Year: Fall 2015 – Spring 2016  
Instructor: Cassandra Thames  
Room: C-309  
Telephone: (916) 433-5200, Ext. 1309  
Email: cassandra-thames@scusd.edu  

Course Description and Outline:  
This course is designed to give students the equivalent of one year of the 9th grade social science content Geography and Contemporary Global Issues requirement. As an interdisciplinary introduction to social science, the course provides the foundation for later study of World History, United States History, Economics, and United States Government. The Five Themes of geography – Location, Place, Human-Environment Interaction, Movement, and Region provide a framework that focuses on understanding places, characteristics of places, forces that shape those characteristics, and how different places are interrelated. The course places geography in context of social, cultural, and economic global issues of a region.  

Course Outline:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Global Issues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Basics of Geography and Study Skills</td>
<td>Renewable/Non-Renewable Resources; Global Warming</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>Terrorism and the Rise of Militant Islam; Immigration</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Latin/South America</td>
<td>Income Gap; Environment Issues</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Terrorism and the Rise of Militant Islam; Immigration</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Fresh Water Crisis; AIDS; Infectious Diseases; Genocide; Barriers to Development; Women’s Economic Rights; Rise of Militant Islam</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The Middle East</td>
<td>The Arab Spring; Women’s Economic Rights; Rise of Militant Islam</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Fresh Water Crises; Women’s Economic Rights; Barriers to Development; Rise of Militant Islam</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Independent Research Project on a Country and/or Global Issue</td>
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Required Materials:
• Binder or Section Divider in a binder for Geography and Global Issues
• College Rule Paper
• Textbook
• Pencils/Erasers
• Pens
• Highlighter
• USB Flash Drive
• Internet Email Account

Course Objectives and Academic Requirements:
• It is the goal of this course is to create an environment for learning. With emphasis on Common Core Standards, the course is designed to help students develop understanding, and help students extend and apply knowledge. Strategies will include, but are not limited to, close reading activities, academic conversations (cooperative learning activity with fellow students, written analysis, research projects, and oral presentations.

• Students will be graded on active participation in classroom activities, discussions, reading assignments in the textbook and other source materials, lecture notes, writing assignments, individual and group projects, weekly quizzes, and tests.

• All work that is not collected immediately will be kept in the binder or an in-class folder at the direction of the teacher to be collected and graded at regular intervals.

• Organization and neatness of the student’s work, (including penmanship) is extremely important. It is also extremely important that the student stays current with all assignments. Late work is accepted only at the discretion of the teacher and NOT accepted beyond the date of an exam.

• It is expected that your students complete his or her homework. In the case of an absence, signed notification, (including a contact number), from a parent/guardian stating the reason for the absence MUST accompany late work to be accepted for full credit. Any Extra Credit is issued at the discretion of the teacher.

Course Assessment:
Grading Scale:
90% - 100% = A
80% - 89% = B
70% - 79%: = C
60% - 69% = D
0% - 59% = F
Grade Calculations:
Class work and Participation 20%
Homework 20%
Projects and Papers 30%
Quizzes and Tests 30%

Classroom Behavior Requirements:
• The citizenship grade will be based on behavior and obedience to the classroom and school rules. In addition to the class rules listed below, please refer to the John F. Kennedy High School website for specific discipline rules and dress codes.
• A student is considered tardy if not seated before the start bell.
• All students must fully engage in the lesson and work at all times.
• Graffiti on paper assignments and in textbooks may result in point deductions of the assignment score, or disciplinary actions.
• A student must raise his or hand for recognition before any movement out of desk, or answers/comments are given.
• Students are to be respectful of self, others and teacher.
• While students may possess a cell phone, it is not to be heard or displayed in class.
• Eating food in class is not allowed, unless a medical note is on file indicating the need to do so.
• Water or Gatorade type drink containers, with twist caps, are the only beverages that are allowed during class and will not be shared.
• Excessive restroom usage is prohibited, unless a medical note is on file indicating the need to do so.
• Restroom usage is prohibited in the first and last 10 minutes of class.
My signature below indicates that I have read and understood Miss Thames’ Geography and Contemporary Global Issues History 2015-2016 Syllabus and agree to the listed terms and conditions.

______________________________            ____________________________
Student (Print)                                    Date

______________________________            ____________________________
Student (Signature)                                    Date

______________________________            ____________________________
Parent/Guardian (Print)                                    Date

______________________________            ____________________________
Parent/Guardian (Signature)                                    Date

Home Number:                      ________________________________

Parent/Guardian Cell or Alternate Number:                     ________________________________

Student Email:                           ________________________________

Parent/Guardian Email:                        ________________________________

Please feel free to write below any comments or questions, and/or any medical conditions that the teacher and school should be aware of:

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