



**GEOGRAPHY and CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES
COURSE SGS 121
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

School Year: Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Room C-309
Prep: Period-2
(9:24 -10:25 AM on MTWF; 9:14- 10:05 AM on TH)

Instructor: Cassandra Thames
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Course Description and Outline:

Welcome to Geography with Miss Thames! This course is designed to give students the equivalent of one year and 10 credits of the 9th grade Geography and Contemporary Global Issues requirement for graduation. The course provides the foundation for later study of history, economics, and government. This course recognizes contemporary reality, cause and effect, and the increasing influence that other countries and peoples have in our daily lives. It is the study of people and places, reasons and issues. There is a focus on selected contemporary global issues. This course is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Science by using a variety of sources and methods, we study human migration, population growth, conflict/ cooperation, civic participation, technology, globalization, and environmental issues. These real world issues are taken from today’s headlines and studied in the context of geography.

Course Outline:

Unit	Region – Fall 2016	Subject Matter Emphasis
1	North America	United States
2	Latin America	Brazil
3	Europe	France
Unit	Region – Spring 2017	Subject Matter Emphasis
4	Africa	Kenya
5	Southwest Asia (Middle East/South Asia)	India
6	East Asia	China
7	South East Asia /Oceania/Australia	Oceania

**Contemporary issues and current events: global warming, pollution, poverty, the role of women, urban sprawl, overpopulation, hunger, and immigration.*

Required Curriculum and Text:

Pebble Creek Labs

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

Required Tools:

- 70-page *College* Rule Spiral Notebook
- Pens/Pencils/Erasers
- Colored Pencils
- Correction Liquid or Tape
- Highlighter
- USB Flash Drive

Course Objectives and Academic Requirements:

- The platform for this 9th grade class is to foster core knowledge in world geography and global contemporary issues; create an environment for improving English literacy skills academic reading, writing, and critical thinking skills; and promoting curiosity and confidence, and questioning and success.
- The letter grade will be based on participation in classroom activities and discussions, reading assignments in the *Pebble Creek* curriculum, textbook and other source materials, lecture notes, writing assignments, homework, individual and cooperative group projects, oral presentation, quizzes, and tests. Any Extra Credit is issued at the discretion of the teacher.
- All work that is not collected immediately will be kept in a binder, or an in-class folder (provided by the teacher) until collected and graded at regular intervals and posted on the Infinite Campus online portal
- It is extremely important that the student stays current with all assignments. Late work is *not* accepted. Exceptions regarding late work will be given to students with excused absences. Consideration for additional time to complete assignments may be given to a student with an active 504 Accommodations or Independent Educational Plan (IEP) upon discussion with the assigned counselor and special education teacher, respectively. Regardless of exceptions, late work will not be accepted beyond the date of an exam.
- Organization and neatness of the student’s work, (including penmanship) is very important.

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:

“OWN IT - FIX IT - LEARN FROM IT”

- Students are to be respectful of self, others and teacher.
- The citizenship grade will be based on behavior and obedience to the classroom and school rules.
- 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.
- 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.
- Restroom usage is prohibited in the first and last 10 minutes of class. On a minimum scheduled day, restroom usage is prohibited in the first and last five minutes of class.
- Excessive restroom usage is prohibited, unless a medical note is on file indicating the need to do so.
- 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.



JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
GEOGRAPHY and CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES SIGNATURE PAGE

My signature below indicates that I have read and understood Miss Thames' Geography and Contemporary Global Issues History 2016-2017 Syllabus and agree to the listed terms and conditions.

- List any medical conditions that your student has that the teacher should be aware of: *(Optional)*

- List some of your student's learning strengths: *(Optional)*

- List any challenges that may interfere with student's learning: *(Optional)*

- Who is your student's English teacher? *(For reading and writing support - Not Optional)*

Parent/Guardian (Print)

Parent/Guardian (Signature)

Date

Student (Print)

Student (Signature)

Date