



GEOGRAPHY & ETHNIC STUDIES



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE • COURSES SGF 110 and SGF 200 SYLLABUS

School Year: Fall 2019 – Spring 2020
Room C-309
Prep: Period – 3
(10:32 – 11:29 AM on MTWF; 10:12 – 10:59 AM on TH)

Instructor: Cassandra Thames
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Geography & Contemporary Global Issues Course Description:

Welcome to Geography/Contemporary Global Issues and Ethnic Studies with Miss Thames! The geography and contemporary global issues course is designed to give students the equivalent of one year and 10 credits of the 9th grade geography requirement for graduation, and prepares them for later study of history, economics, and government. This course focuses on the increasing influence that other countries and peoples have in our daily lives. It is the study of people and places, and reasons and issues. We study human migration, population growth, conflict and cooperation, political participation, technology, globalization, and environmental issues.

First Semester – Geography & Contemporary Global Issues Course Outline:

Unit	Region
1	Africa
2	Europe
3	East Asia
4	South and South East Asia
5	Central and South America

Ethnic Studies Course Description

During the second semester, the class will focus on ethnic studies. The Ethnic Studies course at John F. Kennedy High School is based primarily on the Ethnic Studies Course outline developed by the Sacramento City School District. Each Ethnic Studies unit is focused on the Common Core Literacy Standards for History/Social Science, the Core Social Emotional Learning Competencies as outlined by Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) <https://casel.org/core-competencies/>, and are taught by teachers that are committed to the Critical Practices for Anti-bias Education framework described by Teaching Tolerance: <http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/PDA%20Critical%20Practices.pdf>.

Second Semester - Ethnic Studies Course Outline:

Unit	Region/Theme	Essential Question
Geog. 6	North America – The United States	***
Launch	What is Ethnic Studies? Creating a Supportive Learning Community	***
1	Identity: Self Awareness and Self Management	Who am I?
2	Ancestry and Migration: Social Awareness/Building Relationships	Where do I come from?
3	Understanding Sacramento - Resolving Conflicts	Where am I?
4	Life Goals and Advocacy: Setting Life Goals and Responsible Decision Making	Where am I going?

Required Curriculum and Texts:

- *Pebble Creek*
- *World Geography* (© 2008, McDougal Littell)
- *Our Stories In Our Voices* (© 2017, 2nd Edition)

Required Tools:

- College Rule Paper or 70-page Spiral Notebook
- Pens/Pencils/Erasers
- Highlighter
- Calendar Planner (*Useful for all classes)

Course Objectives and Academic Requirements:

- The platform for this 9th grade class is to foster core knowledge in world geography, global contemporary issues, and ethnic studies; 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, 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, (*folder provided by the teacher), until collected and graded at regular intervals and posted in the Infinite Campus online portal
- It is extremely important that the student stays current with all assignments. Homework that is turned-in late will receive a 50% deduction in points. 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). Regardless of exceptions, late homework nor class work will not be accepted beyond the date of a subject 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	30%
Homework	20%
Projects and Papers	20%
Quizzes and Tests	30%

Classroom Behavior Requirements:

“OWN IT - FIX IT - LEARN FROM IT”

- Students are to be respectful of self, others and the 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 her 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 unless instructed by the teacher or a counselor(s) for occasional use in a curricular related activity. Repeated violation of this rule may result in the phone being confiscated. Parents/guardians should contact their student via the designated JFK administrative, counseling, attendance, and/or classroom phone numbers/extensions.**
- 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.



*For alphabetizing purposes, place the first three initials of the student's last name in the box. (Example: **Thames – THA**)

**JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
GEOGRAPHY/CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES and ETHNIC STUDIES
SIGNATURE PAGE**

My signature below indicates that I have read and understood Miss Thames' Geography and Contemporary Global Issue; and Ethnic Studies 2019-2020 Syllabus and agree to the listed terms and conditions.

- List any medical conditions and/or challenges that may interfere with your student's learning that the teacher should be aware of: *(Optional)*If additional space is needed, please continue on back of this sheet.*

- The contemporary global issues and ethnic studies curriculum may include documentaries of social issues and actual historical events, and movie segments that attempt accurate depictions of social issues and historical events. Some segments contain levels of violence and strong language such as the 1994 Tutsi genocide in the African nation of Rwanda. PG-13/R rated movies such as, "Hotel Rwanda" specify that a minor child under the age of 17 must have adult supervision to view. Please check the appropriate box as it pertains to your student being supervised by the teacher during these segments.

I will allow my child to view PG-13/R rated film segments on social/historical topics.

I will not allow my child to view PG-13/R rated film segments on social/historical topics.

Parent/guardian's best quick access phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian (Print)

Parent/Guardian (Signature)

Date

Student (Print)

Student (Signature)

Date

