



2024-2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

GEOGRAPHY (SGS110) ETHNIC STUDIES

Geography / Ethnic Studies is the social studies course required for 9th grade students in the Sacramento City Unified School District. As an interdisciplinary introduction to social studies, the course provides the foundation for the later study of World and United States History, Economics, and Government. Over the totality of the course students will explore both world geography and the people of various world regions as well as experiences from an ethnic studies perspective. This course will introduce and develop skills that will be needed in subsequent social studies classes such as mapping and analyzing a variety of maps, analyzing social change over time, and comparing and contrasting diverse cultures and ethnic groups.

Mr. Pereira's email address

tony-pereira@scusd.edu

Grades will be kept in Infinite Campus. Due dates of assignments will be kept in Google Classroom. It is possible to do almost all assignments digitally in GC for students that have an extended absence. Mr. Pereira must be emailed if assignments are done digitally.

TEXTBOOK

Primary Text: *Geography Alive! Regions and People* (TCI Teachers Curriculum Institute) c. 2019

REQUIRED MATERIALS

There is a detailed supply list for Geography / Ethnic Studies and Google Classroom Stream.

GRADING POLICY

All assignments are worth points and grades will be calculated based on the amount of points earned. The value of each assignment indicates the relative importance. For example, a quiz might be worth 10, and a test worth 50, showing that the test has more value in the overall grade. Work will be divided into categories (assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, etc.) but the grade is not weighted, a point in one category is equal to a point in any other category. The purpose of separate categories in this class is to see where improvement is needed if the overall grade is low.

The class will use the district standard grading scale (*see note below*):

A= 100% - 90%

B= 89% - 80%

C= 79% - 70%

D= 69% - 60%

F= 59% and below (*see note below*)

SCUSD implemented a policy that all assignments must be entered at a minimum of 50% (even if nothing is turned in and even if a student is caught and admits to cheating). **Parents / Guardians please understand that low grades are artificially higher due to the policy. If your student has a 54% in this class it means they have actually only done 4% of the work. This makes it much more work to raise a grade. In the past a student might have needed to do 10 assignments to raise from an F to a D. In this district policy minimum 50% system the student would need to do 20 assignments now to raise from an F to a D (due to already having 50% on all the missing assignments).**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

In addition to general geographic skills and skills in the above course description, students in Geography / Ethnic Studies will learn throughout the semester / year: reading comprehension and analysis, writing in defense of an argument, developing a thesis and defending a thesis with evidence, evaluating the validity of sources of evidence, working in groups, and public speaking.

Units of course:**Geography:**

- [01] Introduction to geography (general map skills)
- [02] The United States and Canada
- [03] Latin America
- [04] Europe
- [05] Russia and the Republics
- [06] Africa
- [07] Southwest Asia
- [08] South Asia
- [09] East Asia
- [10] Southeast Asia, Oceania, and Antarctica
- [11] Conclusion and Final

Ethnic Studies:

- [1] Introduction to Ethnic Studies
- [2] Who am I?
- [3] Where do I come from?
- [4] Where am I?
- [5] Where am I going?
- [6] Conclusion and Final

Changes to what this syllabus establishes may be necessary and the teacher reserves the right to alter as needed by changing conditions. All effort will be made to be fair, understanding, and to notify as early and clearly as possible any changes that are implemented.