John F. Kennedy High School
Geography Course Syllabus

This course is a required course for graduation from high school.

Instructor: Mrs. Triebes
Room: 204
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Course Description:
The purpose of this course is for students to gain a working knowledge of our physical environment and its impact on our history and life styles, thus allowing us to better understand the nature of the world and the events that take place in it.

Course Objectives:
Students will be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of location, landforms and resources of cultural regions. They will develop skills in the use of maps, globes and other graphic tools to acquire and process geographic information. Students will be able to relate how geography has affected the economic, social and cultural development of cultural regions and they understand how to analyze problems that challenge people from various cultural regions. Students will increase their reading skills, their critical thinking skills, their ability to question, as well as their ability to form arguments. Students will increase their ability to conduct meaningful research based on thoughtful inquiry. Students will improve their abilities to communicate their thoughts through both discussion and writing. Students will work cooperatively with other students through discussion and the development of presentations for the class.

Instructional Material:
AGS World Geography as well as supplemental materials to meet students IEP related accommodations.

Student Materials:
Students should come to class with the proper items everyday. Pencils, notebook or binder with loose-leaf paper, & colored pencils ****** Students choosing to use Pen for their work MUST HAVE WHITE OUT**

Instructional Methods:
1. Lecture and note taking from power points
2. Independent & directed student reading from books, periodicals, newspapers, & primary sources
3. Socratic method (discussion amongst students/debates)
4. Cooperative method
5. Films and news strips

Student Evaluation:
The grading for the course will be weighted as follows:
15% - Quizzes & Tests
50% - Participation/class work & homework when assigned
20% - Semester Finals

1. Quizzes will be given on a regular basis over class readings.
2. Critical Thinking Questions are used for most reading assignments.
3. Tests will be given at the end of each unit. These tests will be in multiple choice & short essay format.
4. Students will complete one essay for this class regarding government or a famous person from our readings.

Course Expectations:

Professionalism:
All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times within the classroom. Students are expected to follow all school and class rules as listed below. Students must come to class prepared to learn, with all work completed, organize and neat. Students must be respectful of others and their right to learn while in this class. This means students will be punctual and will actively participate in all class activities and discussion.

Academic Honesty and Responsibility:
Academic honesty is expected of all students. Dishonesty in any form (including copying from a friends paper) on any project or examination will not be tolerated. Student grades will be reduced by 30% for the first infraction with further infractions resulting in a zero on the exam or project.

Late Work:
Students are expected to turn in all assignments on time. Students who do not have the assignment ready for turn in will complete a "LATE WORK" sheet explaining their dilemma and indicating a date they are able to meet with the teacher to discuss the reason no work was completed. Assignments are left in the file box at the front door ALL MONTH LONG so there should be no excuse for not having the papers.

Make-Up Policy:
If a class is missed because of an excused absence, students may turn in assignments on the first day they return. If students have an excused absence on the day of an exam or quiz they will have the opportunity to take that exam or quiz at a later date. That date will be determined by the teacher and will depend on the length of the absence.

Attendance Expectations:
Students are expected to attend every class meeting. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of an absence and to bring appropriate readmit slips to class. Students are expected to be to class on time. The consequences for consistent tardiness will be per school policy, Saturday school or detention.

Cell Phone Policy:
Cell phones may never be used in class for any reason, including checking the time or date. If a cell phone is out during a class period the teacher will hold the phone until the end of the class period. If the student continues to have his/her cell phone out, parents will be notified and the student will be referred to the principal or discipline office.

Behavior expectations/consequences:
Students will be given two warnings about their behavior. Referrals for none compliance to school rules and classroom rules will be given upon the third offense for the day. Should a students behavior impede the learning of others the student will be given a referral and sent out of the room immediately as other students have a right to a distraction free learning environment.

********** **PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PORTION ONLY** **********

Geography Course Syllabus Parent signature

_____ _____
Student Signature Date

_____ _____
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

☐ I give permission for you to contact me via email concerning information about my student, including sending grades and progress reports.

My current email address is: _____

☐ I do not have access to email. Please call me at the following phone number(s) instead:

_____