



2024-2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

World Geography, Ms. Ramos, Room T-11

Phone: 916-407-4544 (please share with your guardians as well) , Email: evelyn-ramos@scusd.edu

Welcome! I hope that in the upcoming year you will find this school, and especially this class, interesting and full of opportunities for personal and academic growth...

In World Geography we will be focusing on three things: developing skills to study geography effectively, preparing you for the social science classes that you will take for the next four years (World History, U.S. History, and Government/Economics), and understanding the human relationship with the earth in different parts of the world. In other words, don't moan and think this geography class will be just filling in maps and memorizing countries! This class will actually mostly focus on major issues within each region we are studying and how the culture and environment all play an important role in the daily life of millions around the world.

In fact, Kennedy is the perfect school to study about the world because so many students are from around the world themselves. Also, as many of you have experienced with the internet or by watching the news, our relationship with other countries from around the world is becoming more important and immediate. We need to learn about issues that not only affect us here in the USA, but also affect many people around the world.

Materials Required for This Course:

- **The tools of a scholar: a pen, pencil, and highlighter.** Although I do loan out these things if you forget or can't get one at this time, you do need to go out and buy your own. ACTIVE reading includes a pencil and highlighter, so, please get your own.
- **Chromebook:** Every day - CHARGED
- **Textbook.** Not needed for this class. We will *sometimes* use the TCI digital textbook that we will have access to in our computers.
- **A folder and binder paper:** I will provide a folder to keep your papers organized in class (since we do not use the textbook very much, you will get handouts). This folder will not go home and please always have binder paper available in your folder. In addition, your folder must be kept neatly in place in the classroom folder bin.

The skills we will develop in World Geography:

- Map reading/interpretation skills
- Analyzing, discovering, and creating relationships between statistical data (information in the form of numbers), the physical landscape, and the cultural components of a country.
- Reading comprehension skills (finding the main point, summarizing, etc)
- Organizational skills
- Spatial understanding
- Visual analysis and note taking



2024-2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

- Metacognition (fancy word for thinking about our thinking)
- Memorization (the mnemonic process)
- Healthy discussion, listening, and sharing skills
- SEL Skills: Social Emotional Learning

The regions we will cover, in order:

- North America (U.S. with an emphasis on Sacramento), Latin America (Mexico), South America (focusing on Brazil), Africa (Kenya), Middle East (Israel/Palestine), Asia (China/India)

Classroom Procedures:

- Everyday, you must be in your seat before the bell rings or you are tardy. I am only this strict because I want to be fair, so please don't lose track of time when coming from another class.
- Everyday, you will get your folder from our classroom bin and you will immediately start the warm-up that is on the board (sometimes google classroom, sometimes something else so make sure you look at the screen as soon as you walk in).
- All in-class handouts must be carefully stored in your folder. All work is aimed to prepare you for the final assessment at the end of each unit. Don't throw anything away unless you are given the green light to do so.
- You are not allowed to put your folder away and clean-up unless given permission to do so.
- "No work" is not tolerated. Even if you are not bothering someone, if you are just sitting there, you will not be excused to your next class until your work is finished. There is no "I will finish it for homework" because we all know that means it will not get done. If serious effort was shown, I will excuse for the next class. Your completed work is your ticket out the door!

The Law...of my classroom:

- **Respect**...yourself. I can't force you to work and I know you don't want me to. If you don't want to stress, if you don't want the drama for you and your family, respect yourself and ALWAYS do the best you can. Have a positive attitude, set high standards for yourself (I will) and do all that you can to achieve. Walk with your head up high knowing that you are becoming smarter by the minute.
- **Respect**...others. This means your classmates and me. I am not here to pretend I am your mom or dad, but I have to make sure that all students in my classroom are comfortable and safe. Choosing to threaten my comfortable and safe classroom will not only complicate my life and your life, but it will disrupt the learning process and there will be firm consequences. Practice the following daily: listening attentively, being polite, communicating as clearly as you can, waiting your turn, and doing nice things even when you are not asked to.
- **Respect**... your environment. You are in high school now and there are 130 students walking in and out of my classroom everyday. If just a couple people in every classroom leave trash behind, don't put supplies back, and take supplies out of the classroom without my consent, we will be learning in a dump. There will be consequences for people that disrespect our classroom. NOTE: ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT TO BE SEEN IN CLASS. AT ALL. I WILL CALL HOME IF THIS IS A BIG ISSUE.



2024-2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

Homework: Maximum once a week, and two to three days to complete it. It is not for punishment, but to help you understand content more deeply that may help you make more connections with the material in class.

Point System and Grading Scale: Every class day will be given a point value, based on the difficulty or importance of that day (major writing activities, group projects, etc., tend to have a higher point value).

Your semester grade consists of these four categories: 1.) attendance and productivity 2.) class assignments graded 3.) exams and projects and 4.) homework. You get ten points a day for being in class and being productive. If you are late, absent, or off-task despite repeated reminders, you can lose these daily points. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the class period and are anywhere from 10-20 points. Exams and projects are obviously worth more, depending on how much time is required.

I use the following grading scale (90%-100%=A, 80%-89%=B, 70%-79%=C, 57%-69%=D, 50%-56%=F). Per District mandate, students are not allowed to drop below a 50% which means all incomplete assignments will automatically be given half credit. This is to prevent students from falling too far off and therefore losing motivation to climb back up. Please note that half credit on any assignment is still an "F" and an "F" is still possible.

Late Work: Will be accepted but a few points will be deducted (about 5% max so it really is still worth turning it in!). If the work is done poorly, it will take a bigger hit.

Grades Are Posted Bi-Weekly: At each major grading period, we will write reflections and identify goals we want to work on to keep us motivated.

Attendance: There is a direct connection between your grades and your attendance. Please make sure to come to school and be on time. Thanks to Google Classroom, everything will be at your fingertips. Extra days will be provided to do make up work in case of excused absences..