

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

9th Grade

Instructor: *Ms. Williams*

Room: B-9

Phone Number: 909 388-6419

School District Email Address: kristy.williams@sbcusd.k12.ca.us

Geography is the study of both the physical and cultural processes that shape our environment.

Course Description:

The ninth-grade history- social science curriculum consists of a one- year course on World Geography. Students will learn the basic themes of Physical Geography and World Regional Geography (a.k.a. Cultural Geography). Physical Geography is the study of the processes that shape the landforms and water systems of our planet. An important and current topic incorporated into this course is analyzing how humans are having a dramatic effect on the Earth. Students will explore many of the diverse cultural populations, which create the mosaic of our country, as well as, the planet. Finally, students will learn many of the skills used by social scientists, such as, cartography, anthropology, ethnology, linguistics, archaeology, geology, and historiography.

Course Materials:

Required by Friday

Text Book: McDougal Litell, 2006. *World Geography*. (Available in the Library)

Pencil

Paper

Three- Ring- Binder (at least 1 inch)

Page Dividers (Five page dividers, these are inexpensive and can be found in store that has an office supply department.)

Recommended

Ruler

Colored Pencils

Washable Markers- It is against school rules to bring permanent markers to school, please refer to the student handbook if you have questions.

Class Rules:

1. Be in your assigned seat when the bell rings
2. Bring all your materials to class
3. Follow the directions the first time they are given
4. Be respectful to all people in Y-3
5. No personal grooming during your class time
6. No food or drink (except water) in Y-3
7. Electronics must be off and out of sight

Consequences

Positive Consequences:

Praise (daily)

Positive Notes Home (random)

Excellent work displayed (weekly)

Extra Credit Points (random)

The joy of learning (each day of the school year)

Various other positive perks (throughout the school year) ex. No Referrals Party

Geography Lab or Culturally Relevant Film (every Friday)

Negative Consequences:

IF YOU CHOOSE TO BREAK A RULE

FIRST TIME:

Name on board. Warning

SECOND TIME:

15 minutes after school on Thursday

THIRD TIME:

30 minutes after school on Thursday

FOURTH TIME:

30 minutes after school on Thursday. Parents called.

HABITUAL DISTRUPTIONS:

Action Plan, Parent Teacher Conference

SERVERE DISTRUPTION: Student sent immediately to office with referral.

Course Requirements:

1. **ATTENDING:** It is assumed that you will attend every scheduled class. Class meetings will consist of both lectures and/or discussions primarily of assigned materials. You should attend class prepared to contribute to class activities in order to pass.
2. **BATHROOM PASSES:** Bathroom passes will only be given on an emergency basis. The time the student is gone will be tripled and the student will come after school to make up for lost class time.
3. **READING AND STUDYING:** It is assumed that all reading will be done prior to class. While it might not be apparent initially, each participant is expected to engage in some discipline during the time the class is not in session. The reading is not difficult. Stamina is the key.
4. **TESTING:** Multiple assessments will be given throughout the year. The tests will often be given at the end of Chapter Units; however, comprehensive quizzes will be given at my discretion. I believe students should be well rounded and able to perform a variety of tasks. Thus, while multiple choice and true/false tests will be administered, practicals, essay, oral exams, class presentation and class projects will also be used to judge understanding.
5. **CLASS WORK:** Students will be required to maintain a weekly **Notebook**. The notebook will consist of assignments completed in class and homework. Students will organize their work in their **THREE-RINGED BINDER** and submit it for grading at the end of the week (This will be explained in great detail during class) WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF NOT PLACED IN THE NOTEBOOK. It is very important that work be organized and maintained in the notebook. If you have any questions please arrange a meeting after school with me and we can discuss the process.
6. **HOMEWORK: Yes, there is homework everyday. This will often take the shape of unfinished class work. There will also be several weeklong projects that students will complete at home. A course outline will follow shortly. If you finish all of this you should be reading for 30 minutes each day from your textbook.**
7. **LATE WORK:** It is your responsibility to obtain work when you are absent. Since work is not collected until the end of the week there is plenty of time for you to make-up the missed assignments. If you happen to miss a Thursday or Friday you will have a one- day extension, provided you have an excused absence. Unexcused work will be allowed for one week after the due date, each late day 10% will deducted from the final score.

Grading Scale:

90-100%= A	80-90%= B	70-80%= C	55-70%=D
55-0%=F			

**Exams= 30%, Class Attendance/Participation= 10%,
Classwork/Homework=30%, Projects=30%, Extra Credit=YES**

REMEMBER: Credit is given for all grades above a D. A failing grade will receive no credit and the course will need to be retaken. It behooves you to pass all of your classes. You will not graduate or move forward until you pass the course.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME. I WANT YOU TO HAVE A GREAT FRESHMAN YEAR AND MORE IMPORTANTLY TO MOVE FORWARD IN YOUR HIGHSCHOOL CAREER. IF YOU ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH ANY ASPECT OF THE COURSE PLEASE TELL ME SO I CAN HELP YOU. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO GET HELP. WE ARE ALL HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

Finally, this syllabus is not written in stone, as the instructor I reserve the right to alter or change any of the course outline to better serve the needs of the course.

I have reviewed and understand the course expectations and class rules for World Geography in B-9.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and welcome you to Pacific High School. This will be a new and exciting school year for you and your child. This course syllabus, in addition, to the student handbook should help explain some of the new procedures your high-schooler will be expected to adjust to.

My name is Kristy Williams. This will be my third year teaching Geography at Pacific High. I have a Bachelors Degree in History and a Master's Degree in Archaeology. I am very passionate about the study of different cultures and the past. One of the realities of the contemporary world is the increasing influence of other nations in the daily life of the American citizen. This course in World Geography is designed to provide understanding of the distribution and characteristics of the world's major cultures and of the dynamics of human migration and cultural diffusion.

High School is meant to be a positive experience. Pacific High School has many procedures in place to help you with this. One of the single most important things that you can do as a parent is to make sure your student is coming to class on time and with pencil and paper. The office has blue attendance cards and grade check sheets, which require teachers to sign and date the student's attendance and progress in their course. Also, Parent-teacher conferences can be arranged with the Counseling Office. In addition you may contact me via my email kristywilliams@sbcusd.k12.ca.us or telephone me after school at (909) 388-6419.

Please review the course syllabus and sign the bottom portion of this letter. This will be the first graded assignment for your child. Please include an email address.

Please review and sign the historical movie list this will help me plan Lab/historically based movie days. This will be a 10 point extra credit assignment.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to a productive year.

Warm Regards,

Ms. Kristy A. Williams

I HAVE READ THE COURSE SYLLABUS FOR MS. WILLIAMS' WORLD GEOGRAPHY CLASS

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

EMAIL

PHONE NUMBER

Film List for Ms. Williams, Ninth Grade Geography Class

I agree with the expression, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Many times it is far easier to see a historical setting and situation than to simply imagine what occurred. I also believe that people should be able to distinguish fact from fantasy. National geography standards require students to apply geography to interpret the past and to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future. Moreover, course work in later social science classes will require students to understand historical interpretation. "Students must recognize the complexity of historical causes and effects, including the limitation of determining cause and effect" Therefore, I will be utilizing a variety of films to help draw out geographical themes, as well as teach critical thinking and analysis skills.

Most of the films I show in class are rated G or PG, however there are a few which are rated PG-13. Please review the movie list. You can review these films or we can arrange a screening. If you object to your child viewing the following films, please circle and write no next to the film. This will allow me to plan accordingly.

Potential Films Include:

An Empire of Reason: The Ratification of the U.S. Constitution, G
The Spirit of Crazy Horse, PG
Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All, PG
D-Day the Sixth of June, G
The Longest Day, G

Del Norte, PG
Salt of the Earth, G
Chicano

All Quiet on the Western Front, PG-13

Bride and Prejudice, PG

The Last Samurai, PG 13
The Inn of the Sixth Happiness, PG
Schindler's List- R
Ana and the King, PG

Hotel Rwanda, PG 13

The Inconvenient Truth, PG

STUDENT NAME PLEASE PRINT

PARENT NAME PLEASE PRINT AND SIGN

DATE