**WORLD GEOGRAPHY**  
Mr. Sayner 2019-2020

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** World Geography is a one year course **required** for all freshmen. Following an introduction to culture, several world regions will be explored. The study of each world region will begin with a general geographic overview followed by an investigation of selected current global issues impacting the region of study.

**ACTIVITIES:** The course textbook, *Geography Alive*, will be available on Chromebook, thus students will not have to carry it between home and school. In addition to traditional map quizzes and unit tests (a combination of multiple choice questions and short essays) a variety of assessments will be used to instruct and evaluate student understanding.

**First Semester Overview**

**UNIT I: CULTURE**  
Focus Question: *What defines a people?*  
**Topics:** - Culture and Race  
- Simple vs. Complex Cultures  
- Ethnocentrism vs. Cultural Tolerance  
- Cultural Diffusion & Assimilation  
- Family Structures

**UNIT II: EAST ASIA - COMPARATIVE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS**  
Focus Question: *What controls people?*  
**Topics:**  
- Asia Map Identification – Latitude and Longitude (Absolute location)  
- The Ring of Fire: Plate Tectonics  
- Japan: Population Density and Distribution  
- North vs. South Korea: Comparative Political Systems  
- China’s Rapid Economic Growth & Globalization  
- Human Rights and China (*Research & Present* on topics such as: censorship, Tiananmen Square, one-child policy, gender discrimination, sweatshop labor …)

**UNIT III: LATIN AMERICA - IMMIGRATION**  
Focus Question: *How do people’s choices affect others?*  
**Topics:**  
- Latin America Map Identification  
- Physical Geography: Seasons and Climate  
- Immigration Forces – “push” and “pull” factors  
- U.S. Reaction to Latino Immigrants – (*Mock Trial*)  
- Illegal Drug Trade  
- Cuba: U.S. Embargo?  
- Brazil: From Favelas to the Olympics

**UNIT IV: EUROPE - EUROPEAN UNION**  
Focus Question: *What compels countries to cooperate?*  
**Topics:**  
- Europe’s Political Border Changes  
- Nationalism – Past and Present  
- European Union- creation of the EU  
- EU Parliament Simulation – (*Research Current Issues and Presentation* including:  
- Brexit’s Impact  
- Greek Debt Crisis  
- Various Reactions in the EU to Refugees  
- Europeans’ Response to Terrorism  
- Russia (Putin’s) EU Relations

1st Semester Final Exam: Exam covers all topics and skills from 1st Semester (100 M.C. questions and essay)
UNIT I - AFRICA - STRUGGLES FOR DEVELOPMENT
Focus Question: How do people break away from their past?

Topics:
- Unit Project – (Develop and Design an Africa Board Game)
- Africa’s Physical Geography – Vegetation and Climate Zones
- European Colonization of the Continent and its Legacies
- Indicators Measuring a County’s Level of Development (from 1st World to 3rd World)
- Human Rights Issues: the AIDS pandemic, Rwanda & Sudan Genocides, Child Soldiers …
- South Africa (From Apartheid to the World Cup)

UNIT II - MIDDLE EAST (SOUTHWEST ASIA) - CONFLICT AND RESOLUTION
Focus Question: What causes conflict?

Topics:
- Oil (OPEC) Middle East exports and rapid economic development
- U.S. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (Terrorism)
- The “Arab Spring” and its Consequences
- Syrian Revolution
- Iran - Nuclear Proliferation
- The Arab-Israeli Conflict (Mock Trial)

UNIT III - WORLD RELIGIONS - CULTURAL TRADITIONS
Focus Question: How do religious beliefs and traditions influence peoples’ lives?

Topics:
- Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism (Research & Presentation)

UNIT IV - SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA - CHANGE AND TRADITION
Focus Question: How can history and progress meet?

Topics:
- Gandhi and South Asian Independence
- Globalization (Outsourcing)
- Poverty and Economic Development
- Gender Inequality (“Missing Girls”)
- India – Pakistan Relations (Kashmir)
- Foreign Policy Simulation

U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMIT
Project Description: After researching selected human rights topics, students will hold a mock United Nations Human Rights Summit presented in the Weyrauch Auditorium.

Possible HR Topics:
- Human Trafficking
- Legal Rights and Treatment of Prisoners
- Climate Change
- Access to Basic Education and Health Care
- Immigrant Rights
- Sweatshop & Child Labor

2nd Semester Final Exam - Exam covers all topics and skills from 2nd Semester (100 M.C. questions and essay)
GRADING POLICIES

Your final geography grade will be the culmination of a variety of graded assessments. Graded materials are organized into the following categories:

Tests and Quizzes ............................................................. 35%
Projects and Presentations (Multiple-day Assignment).............. 20%
Homework (Daily Assignments) .......................................... 25%
Class Participation (See Attached Rubric) .............................. 10%
Semester Exam ................................................................. 10%

LATE WORK POLICY

What if I am Absent?
Students can receive full credit for work missed due to “excused absences”, but students are responsible to find out the materials or assignments that were missed and turn in the required make-up work. If you miss just one day, checking Classroom on your Chromebook or asking another student from your class what you missed may be a sufficient way to get caught up. However, if you know ahead of time you’re going to be absent, or you miss several days, or feel you need clarification on an assignment; don’t hesitate to ask Mr. Sayner during an appropriate time (before or after class or school).

What if I “Forget” to complete my Homework?
Daily assignments that were not completed will be accepted one day late; but will only receive 70% credit. No credit can be earned on homework assignments not completed within those two days. In addition, each quarter students will receive a late homework pass that can be used for any assignment (if the pass is not used, it can be turned in for extra credit).

Major assignments (projects, papers, presentations) will be accepted late; however a late penalty of 30% per day will be assessed.

A student’s grade will never be lowered, but Mr. Sayner has the right to adjust grades higher dependent upon a student’s willingness to try, participate positively, and learn.

CLASS MATERIALS

REQUIRED Materials:
1. A small 3-ring binder or a separate Geography 2 pocket folder
2. A charged Chromebook
3. Loose-leaf, lined paper
4. Pens, pencils and a highlighter

SUGGESTED Materials:
1. Colored pencils
2. Kleenex (recommended)
Class Participation Rubric

Being able to effectively communicate and work with others is critical to your future success and the effectiveness of this class, thus a part of your overall grade will be based on your class participation. Your participation grade will be based on both student and teacher reflections. Every Friday you will circle the descriptor for each of the four categories that best describes your weekly performance in class.

Category I – Class Preparedness

4  Student is always on time for class, including having all necessary material without returning to the locker, and ready to begin class at the bell.
3  Student is usually on time for class, including having all necessary material without returning to the locker and ready to begin class at the bell.
2  Student is frequently (once a week) not prepared for class, lacks necessary materials, and often not ready to begin class at the bell.
1  Student is usually not prepared for class, lacks necessary materials, nor is ready to begin class on time.

Category II – Attentiveness During Class

4  Student pays attention and takes notes in class every day, and follows directions without having to be reminded.
3  Student usually pays attention and takes notes in class, and generally follows directions without having to be reminded.
2  Student usually pays attention, but sometimes will do other homework during class, write notes to friends or lay their head on their desk during class.
1  Student seldom pays attention, along with doing other homework during class, often writes notes to friends or is consistently “zoned out”.

Category III – Class Questions and Comments

4  Student raises hand and volunteers comments or questions nearly every day (4 times per week). Comments or questions are always respectful and appropriate.
3  Student raises hand and volunteers comments or questions on many days (2 times per week). Comments or questions are always respectful and appropriate.
2  Student rarely raises hand and volunteers comments or questions. Comments or questions are usually respectful and appropriate.
1  Student never raises hand and volunteers comments or questions.

Category IV – Bell Ringer and Small Group Participation

4  Student always participates in all small group activities; and frequently responds to Bell Ringer activities. Student often acts as a leader, cooperates and does his/her share of the work.
3  Student almost always participates in all small group activities and Bell Ringer questions. Student will act as a leader, cooperate and does his/her share of the work.
2  Student usually participates in Bell Ringer discussions and small group activities; participation is usually on topic to the subject studies in class.
1  Student rarely participates in Bell Ringer discussions or small group activities; frequently off topic to the subject studied in class.


Comments or Questions: ____________________________________________________________