COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 94

SHELTERED WORLD GEOGRAPHY COURSE SYLLABUS

Mr. Salgado (2019 – 2020)

OVERVIEW: World Geography is a one-year course required for all freshmen. The course begins with an introduction to cultural geography and will be followed by the exploration of the most important world regions. The study of each world region will begin with a general geographical overview of its physical geography, followed by a general discussion and activities of selected issues pertaining to each particular region. The development and improvement of both reading and writing skills will be emphasized as well. The course revolves around a central or focus question that will serve as the guide for the entire course. Each unit is also guided by a focus question relative to a particular topic.

COURSE FOCUS QUESTION: How do physical, cultural, political, and economic forces shape the global community?

FIRST SEMESTER

UNIT I: Cultural Geography

Focus Question: What defines people?

Topics:
- Material vs. non-material culture.
- Folk vs. popular culture.
- Simple vs. complex culture.
- Ethnicity vs. race.
- Cultural attitudes: ethnocentrism vs. cultural tolerance.
- Cultural diffusion & assimilation.
- Nationalism vs. Globalization.
- Family structures: nuclear, extended, fragmented, matriarchal, patriarchal, egalitarian, etc.

UNIT II: East Asia – Comparative Economic & Political Systems

Focus Question: What controls people?

Topics:
- Asia map identification – Latitude & Longitude
- Relative vs. Absolute location.
- Plate tectonics (case study: Japan & the “Ring of Fire”).
- Population density (relationship to physical geography).
- Comparative political systems (democracy vs. totalitarianism).
- Regional religions: Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism.
- Human rights issues impact on Asian Society (human trafficking, censorship, etc.).
- Case study: North Korea vs. South Korea.
- Comparative economic systems (free market vs. command).
- China: historical & cultural overview (“One-child policy” overview).
- Globalization (case study: China).
- U.S. relations with China.
UNIT III: Latin America – Immigration

Focus Question: How do people’s choices affect others?

Topics:
- Latin America thematic maps
- Physical geography (orographic effect).
- Determinants of climate and reading climographs.
- Spatial inequality (case study: Mexico City).
- Immigration: push and pull factors (refugee crisis at the U.S./Mexico border).
- Drug cartels (supply & demand).
- Contemporary issues: NAFTA II, Venezuela’s crisis.
- Brazil’s new government.

UNIT IV: Europe – European Union

Focus Question: What compels countries to cooperate?

Topics:
- Europe’s Physical Geography (Different Land forms and Water features)
- Nation vs. Political State (Case Study: United Kingdom)
- Nationalism and Supranational
- Case Studies/Issues: Brexit (soft/hard), Middle East & African refugees.
- European Union- creation of the EU and current problems facing the alliance
- EU Parliament Simulation – (research project on current issues and debates)

1st Semester Final Exam - Exam covers all topics and skills from 1st Semester (100 M.C. questions and essay)

SECOND SEMESTER


Possible Topics:
- Human trafficking and slavery.
- Legal rights and treatment of prisoners.
- Access to basic education and health care.
- Immigrant rights.
- Sweatshops & child labor.

UNIT II: Africa – Struggles for Development.

Focus Question: How do people break away from their past?

Topics:
- Human and physical geography of the continent (the Sahara desert and Nile River).
- European colonization of Africa (the Berlin Conference – 1884-85) and its legacies.
- Indicators measuring a county’s level of development (from 1st world to 3rd world).
- Human rights issues: the AIDS pandemic, Rwanda genocide, poverty, overpopulation
- South Africa: from Apartheid to a new democracy (Nelson Mandela).
UNIT III: Middle East (South West Asia) – Conflict & Resolution

Focus Question: What causes conflict?

Topics:
- Place location and physical geography overview.
- Oil and OPEC (supply and demand).
- U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- The “Arab Spring” and its consequences.
- Iran’s nuclear proliferation and recent negotiations.
- Arab-Israeli conflict (basic background and development to the present day).
- Terrorism (Al-Qaeda, etc.).
- ISIS, the Syrian civil war, and the Yemen’s crisis.
- Three major monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam (5 pillars)
- The new oil-boom economies (United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain).

UNIT IV: South & Central Asia – Change and Tradition

Focus Question: How can history and progress meet?

Topics:
- Place location and physical geography overview: Himalayas, Ganges River, monsoon.
- Cultural/religious influences: Hinduism, Buddhism, the caste system.
- British imperialism vs. Gandhi’s struggle for independence.
- Current issues: overpopulation, poverty, spatial inequality, social discrimination.
- Outsourcing (globalization).
- India/Pakistan relations: Kashmir and the nuclear proliferation.

UNIT V: U. N. Human Rights Summit

Focus Question: How do people suffer when their human rights are denied; and how might these abuses be improved?

Project Description: After researching selected human rights topics, students will hold a United Nations Human Rights Summit simulation presented in the school’s auditorium.

2nd Semester Final Exam – Exam covers all topics and skills from 2nd Semester (100 or so multiple-choice questions and essay).

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to follow the established rules in class at all times (see Rules & Expectations document). In order to succeed in this class students must come prepared every day with their completed assignments, pen or pencil, binder, and notebook. Attendance and punctuality will be two important components of the total academic performance as well as the final grade. Remember, this is a required course for high school graduation.
**GRADING SYSTEM:** (based on a 100%-scale system)

1. **Unit Exams:** 30% of semester grade.
2. **In-class Assignments/Homework:** 35% of semester grade.
3. **Participation (including attendance):** 15% of semester grade.
4. **Quizzes:** 15% of semester grade.
5. **Projects/Presentations:** 5% of semester grade.
6. **Final Exam:** 15% of total semester grade.

**GRADING SCALE:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 – 90%</td>
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**RESOURCES:**

3. **Atlas class set.**
4. **WG Google Classroom:** materials will be posted on a regular basis as course progresses.
5. **PowerSchool website (for parents and students):** ps.d94.org/public. (Please check your student’s grades for this class at least once a week, preferable on weekends. Grades are updates most every Friday evening).

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

You may contact Mr. Salgado by any of the following:

1. **Phone:** 630-876-6588 (voicemail; please leave message).
2. **Email:** hsalgado@d94.org (preferred).
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