



Phone: 713-688-1361

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Pre-AP World Geography Course Syllabus 2018-19

Instructor: J. Torres

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Room: 3212

Tutorials: Each Wednesday and Thursday from 4:10 – 4:40 and by appointment

Conference: 1st period

Course Content

World Geography simply put, is the study of the world, its people, and the interactions between the two (Bowerman). This course will use a regional approach and students will study the following topics within each regional unit: E=Economics (money, trading, etc.), S=Social (culture, language, religion, etc.), P=Political (government, laws, etc.), and N=Nature/eNvironment (mountains, lakes, physical systems). Students will examine the spatial and ecological perspectives of geography.

Text

The textbook for the course is as follows:

- World Geography, McDougall Little

Websites

- Active Classroom
- StrataLogica
- www.opengeography.org

About the Teacher

Briefly, I graduated from UHD with a B.S.I.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Psychology. I have been teaching for over 10 years and I have a wife, two kids, and a dog (German Shepherd/Husky mix).

Ongoing Objectives

- By the end of this course, students will have developed analytical skills that allow them to read for more than just comprehension. Students will learn how to analyze primary source documents and place them into historical context. They will write with skill and a good command of the English language to prepare for future AP classes. Students enrolled in this course will also be able to do the following (per The College Board):
- Evaluate evidence-Students will acquire knowledge by evaluating evidence from a wide range of primary and secondary sources.

- Incorporate Evidence-Students will demonstrate command of quantitative, qualitative, and spatial data by effectively incorporating them into written and oral arguments.
- Explain Historical Relationships-Students will explain relationships among events and people by marshalling evidence for causality, correlation, continuity, and change over time.

Requirements

You are required to maintain all your work. The workload for Pre-AP is heavier than a corresponding level course so students enrolled in this course should be highly motivated and self-disciplined. This class is not recommended for students who are not hard working. All students will be required to write at least one essay per exam.

Class Procedures

1. Get to class on time.
2. Remain in your assigned seat unless otherwise directed.
3. Bring required materials to class everyday unless you are otherwise directed.
4. Use polite speech and show respect for yourself and others.
5. Follow the teacher's direction immediately and without complaint.

Class Guidelines

1. Students will be given a warning the first time they tardy, subsequent tardies will receive a phone call to parents and/or fifteen minutes detention.
2. There will be no food or drinks allowed in my room.
3. Make up exams will be given within two days of a missed exam. Any students failing to take their exam within those two days may be subject to taking a different exam than their classmates.
4. All electronic devices will be confiscated if visible or audible in the classroom.
5. Dress code will be enforced as required by the administration of WHS.
6. Attendance. If you have three unexcused absences, you will not receive credit for this course. It is imperative that you attend class.

Grading Scale

Per HISD policy: 90-100=	A
80-89 =	B
75-79 =	C
70-74 =	D
Below 70=	F

The grade awarded at the end of every Six-Week Cycle is a composite one. The final grade will be derived from:

Test/Performance Assessment=	35%
Class Work	=30%
Quizzes	=20%
Homework and other grades	=15%

Students will be given opportunities to make up or redo a class assignment or examination for which the student received a failing grade.

Attendance and Participation

Students must maintain attendance requirements of HISD or risk loss of credit. Be positive and have an appreciation for learning, participate!

Daily Required Materials

1. laptop
2. Pen/pencils
3. three-ring-binder
4. paper

Unit Overviews

Unit One

This unit serves as a review of geographic tools such as maps, mental maps, and other data tools. Students will learn the five themes of geography and they will be introduced to the geographic standards related to the World in Spatial Terms and Places/Regions.

Unit Two

This unit explores the geographic elements of Physical systems and addresses the processes that shape the earth's surface as well as significant landforms, ecosystems and other physical aspects of places. Human systems will also be introduced as students learn settlement patterns, population, demographics, places, regions, and cultures.

Unit Three

This unit examines how humans adapt to, depend on and modify the physical environment in which they settle. It also explores the impact that the physical environment has on the human systems within that space. Region: North America

Unit Four

This unit explores settlement patterns, routes of migration, and distribution patterns, including urbanization, as people began to locate themselves in a physical environment and add a human dimension to the characteristics of a place. Region: Latin America

Unit Five

This unit attempts to answer the question: What is culture? It also explores how cultural traits spread from place to place. Region: Europe.

Unit Six

By examining religion as one particular aspect of the cultural mosaic, this unit will explore how culture influences people's perceptions. Region: SW Asia

Unit Seven

This unit explores the development of political systems and divisions. As humans settled together in larger and larger groups the need for rules and laws emerged and humans began to form systems of government and various political divisions on the earth's surface. Region: Africa/Russia

Unit 8

This unit compares regional government systems and extends this comparison to examination of how political and social factors often lead to conflict and efforts toward cooperation among people and nations. Region: Asia

Unit 9

This unit explores how humans develop economic systems and how economic activity is dependent on available human and physical resources and the management, use, and distribution of those resources. Also, students will use data to compare levels of development and the relationship between availability of resources and economic disparity. Region: South Asia

Unit 10

In this unit, students will summarize the course by revisiting the concept of region and summarizing characteristics and current issues in 21st century world regions, including the impact of globalization on interdependence among those regions.

I have read and understand the requirements to be successful in Mr. Torres’s Pre-AP World Geography class.

Student Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Printed Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent contact info (phone number/email) _____

Parents/Guardian: Please add any **optional information** you would like to share to help ensure your scholar will be successful.
