



Fall 2022 World Geography Syllabus

Elisabeth Johnson, Room T2

Course Description: This one semester graduation requirement is designed to introduce students to the geography of the world, physical and cultural, as well as current issues in different parts of the world. Students will focus on improving literacy skills within social studies as well as understanding the relationship between humans and the world around them. There will be a heavy emphasis on improving evidence based arguments. This is aligned with both the [California History-Social Science Framework](#) and the [Common Core State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies](#).

Course Goals:

- Students will understand common geographical terms, concepts and reasoning.
- Learn more about places in the world and the relationships between people and their environments.
- Improve literacy (reading & writing), and skills like critical thinking & discussion.
- Students will become proficient in: working individually, in pairs, and in groups.
- Develop mindfulness to improve overall health (lower anxiety, encourage thoughtful reactions, deal with stress, improve focus, better sleep, etc.).

Materials:

We will be piloting a new curriculum from the Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI) this semester. Students will have access to their textbook, interactive workbook, and many assignments *digitally* through the TCI application accessed through students' Clever page. Hard copies *may* also be made available in class. Additionally, students will be provided a journal for daily warm ups and any note-taking required in class. Students will also be expected to bring their *charged chromebook to class each day*. All students must join the google classroom for their assigned period. Assignments will be a combination of paper and digital.

Grading:

The teacher will use the district grading scale (A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = 50-59%). Assessments will be both informal and formal through the semester and may include quizzes, tests and a variety of written assignments. Conferencing with students and work towards goals will also be considered in determining a final grade for this course.

Attendance:

Please try to attend class each day, but also know that we are all human and you may have to miss class due to illness, mental health, or home life issues beyond your control. Let the teacher know as soon as possible if you know of an upcoming absence or email/text teacher to check in during absence (if you are able and comfortable doing so).



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Expectations for Success in this Class:

Three most important rules for this class guaranteeing success:

1. **STRIVE to do your daily best, setting goals and accomplishing them through hard work, commitment and a positive attitude.** This translates into: attend class regularly, have a willingness to do class activities, be involved in class, raise your hand to ask or answer questions, complete assignments in class and at home. Feel PROUD of your work!
2. **EMPATHIZE with others and practice perspective taking, listen respectfully and interact in a courteous and helpful manner.** Practice the following daily: be patient when you can't hear another student speak, listen silently and attentively when someone else is talking, reading or asking a questions help someone by explaining the assignment, lecture, directions or homework, address others by their proper names and pronouns, be sensitive to another culture, ethnicity, gender, age, etc.
3. **RESPECT our shared space by keeping it clean, neat and safe.** Practice the following daily: Don't waste paper or other products. Return borrowed computers and charges to your teacher at the end of class. Throw gum and other trash in the wastebasket, if you make a mess - clean it up.
4. **PHONES** - Technology is both a blessing and a curse. With this in mind, how we use technology in our classroom may change depending on the day. This year we may utilize a phone pocket system for students who have difficulty disengaging from their phones during class. Ultimately, families and students themselves are responsible for appropriate technology use.

Contacting the Teacher:

Email: Elisabeth-Johnson@scusd.edu

Text/Voicemail: 916-407-4529

I strive to return calls and follow up with students and families as quickly as possible and usually do a pretty good job, but please be aware that during the day I am teaching and trying to model appropriate behavior for students - not spending time on my phone during class. I also have my own family and young children at home who need my focus in the evenings and on weekends. Practice patience and empathy as I will do for you.