



## 2020-2021 Geography Course Syllabus

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** SGF-110

**Name of Instructor:** Brett Williams

**Telephone Numbers:** 916-395-5090 ext. 506304

**Term and Year:** Spring 2021

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**Office Number:** C-304

**Class Website Hyperlink**

**Geography** is a semester-long Social Science course designed for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. As an interdisciplinary introduction to Social Science, the course provides the foundation for the later study of World and United States History, Economics, and United States Government. This course also blends in contemporary global issues with every unit of study. This course will introduce and develop skills that will be needed in subsequent Social Studies classes, such as mapping, analyzing social change over time, and comparing and contrasting diverse cultures.

In addition to the geographic skills and concepts described, students in Geography will learn academic reading, writing and speaking skills. A lot of attention will be focused on how to interact with text and how to think critically about what you've read.

### Textbook

Primary Text: *World Geography* (McDougal Littell) c. 2003, Arreola, Daniel; Smith-Deal, Marci; Petersen, James F.; and Sanders, Rickie. The book will be used exclusively in class. Students will not need to bring it home.

Students will also be reading a variety of additional texts, including news articles, personal narratives and literature.

### Grading Policy

All assignments are worth points and grades will be calculated based on the amount of points earned in each category. Most work will be completed in class, during class time. Work will be divided into the following categories:

<b>Classwork-- 40%</b>	<b>Learning Logs-- 10%</b>	<b>Unit Assessments -- 30%</b>	<b>Classroom Participation-- 5%</b>	<b>Final-- 15%</b>
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Check grades on Infinite Campus via [www.scusd.edu](http://www.scusd.edu)

### Unit Folders

Your work will be kept in unit folders in the classroom. You will log each assignment and turn it in as a packet on the day of the final assessment. If you misplaced an assignment, or were absent you will need to get a copy from me, or find it on Google Classroom. The assignments for the unit will also all be listed in class.

### Late Work

You may turn in one late packet a semester after having completed and attached a late form to the unit packet.

### Grading Scale

Your grade will be given the following mark based on percentage:

<b>A (+/-):</b> 89.5% and above	<b>B (+/-):</b> 79.5-89.4%	<b>C (+/-):</b> 69.5-79.4%	<b>D (+/-):</b> 59.5-69.4%	<b>F:</b> 59.4% or below
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## Course Outline

The semester will be broken down to the following units:

### Geography of:

- |                            |                                    |                     |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. North America (3 weeks) | 3. Africa (4 weeks)                | 5. Europe (2 weeks) |
| 2. South America (3 weeks) | 4. Asia (East and South) (5 weeks) |                     |

## Academic Expectations

- **We are here to learn together.** We are a community as well as individuals and we should each remember that when engaging in things that distract from that mission, such as texting, eating, drinking, working on other things, sleeping, rude behavior, long walks to the bathroom, etc.
- Every student is expected to attend every class on time every day unless the student is required to be absent for a valid excuse. Truancy, unverified and unexcused absences, excessive absences, and tardies affect the students' education and increase the chances for failure. Tardies interrupt and interfere with the learning environment for all students and the teaching opportunities for teachers. For the rest of the school and district policy on attendance please see the JFK Handbook.
- Students will enter the classroom ready for class. This means removing any hats, hoods and earphones and putting away cell phones or other electronics.
- As soon as the bell rings, students will be working on the Learning Log.

## Behavior Expectations

1. Be on time. School Tardy policy will be enforced.
2. Be prepared to learn once entering the class.
3. Treat others with respect at all times.
4. One person will speak at a time.
5. Believe in your ability to succeed.

## Technology Use (JFK Handbook)

**"During instructional time, a teacher may grant students use of their cell phone or like device for educational purposes.** Any student who violates any term of this policy will have their device confiscated. First-time offenders will be placed on an "electronics contract," and the student can pick up the device at the end of the day from the office. Subsequent violations may carry additional disciplinary consequences and/or require that the parent/guardian pick up the electronic device from the school. **Refusal to comply with confiscation of a device can result in disciplinary consequences, including suspension."**

## Classroom Materials:

The following materials are recommended in order to be successful. If you are unable to get a supply, please contact the instructor.

<u>Recommended Materials</u>		<u>Optional Materials</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Composition Notebook (2-- 1 for each semester) <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Highlighter (2-3 Colors)	<input type="checkbox"/> Folder for Class <input type="checkbox"/> Glue Sticks (2-3) <input type="checkbox"/> Pens (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Colored Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> White-Out <input type="checkbox"/> Different Colored Pens

**Final Note:** Due to the unique nature of each class of students, and the potential impacts of the quarantine, I reserve the right to revise any of the above policies. Such changes will be made plain in class and on the Syllabus provided on Google Classroom and the course website. Thank you for joining my class. We're gonna learn a lot this year together.