

Geography Course Outline

Mr. Steinback and Mr. Morgan

I. General Information:

Geography/9th grade

Course length: one year

Credits: 5 units

Text: Prentice Hall: World Geography Building a Global Perspective, Baerwald & Fraser

Course Summary: An investigation of the forces that shape our world, physically, politically and culturally. We will examine patterns of development in different regions of the earth with a focus on current events.

II. Course Content:

Academic Content Standards	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.	X	X	X	X
2. How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.	X	X	X	X
3. How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places and environments on Earth's surface.	X	X	X	X
4. The physical and human characteristics of places	X	X	X	X
5. That people create regions to interpret Earth's complexity	X	X	X	X
6. How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions	X	X	X	X
7. The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surfaces	X			
8. The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth's surface	X	X	X	X
9. The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human population on Earth's surface	X	X	X	X
10. The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural surface	X	X	X	X
11. How to apply geography to interpret the past	X	X	X	X
12. How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future	X	X	X	X

III. Instructional Plan:

Students will learn about the physical world and people's impact on the earth, physically, historically and culturally. Students will develop study skills in the area of reading, writing, listening, note taking, organization, speaking and technology as they relate to course content. We will begin with a review of the physical world focusing on tectonic plate movement and the earth's relationship with the sun and how this relate to our seasons, climates and weather patterns. After these review units, we will begin our study of the birth of civilization, Southwest Asia. Our focus will be on religion and the impact of the nation of Israel. We then move to Northern Eurasia focusing of the Bolshevik Revolution and the beginnings of the Cold War following World War II. Our focus then turns to Eastern Europe where we further investigate Soviet dominance of this region following World War II. There is also time dedicated to the formation and fall of former Yugoslavia and how this has shaped the Balkans region today. We then turn our attention to Western Europe paying close attention to worldly topics such as nationalism, capitalism, totalitarianism, fascism, the birth of democracy, Renaissance Era and the Age of Enlightenment. Second semester we move to South Asia and Africa focusing on Great Britain's involvement specifically the importance of Mohandas

Gandhi in India. Then on to East Asia and the Mao Revolution; there is also close attention spent on the importance of China becoming a major economic player in the world today. We also look into the causes and outcomes of both the Korean War and the Vietnam War. We finish the class in South and North America focusing on religions, ancient civilizations, and current events.

IV. Assessment:

Homework/Classwork: When homework is assigned it is always due the following class period. Homework can be turned in one day late for half credit. Classwork is mainly class notes and current event journal entries. Class binders will be collected and graded based on organization every quarter.

Examinations: Section quizzes will be given nearly every week. Chapter tests are given every three to four weeks. Map tests are given before or after the chapter tests.

Essay: Students will write an essay on the last Czar of Russia (Nicholas II) and the Bolshevik Revolution. Students who aspire to enter advanced placement the following year must receive an A on this paper. They also must receive an A both semesters in the class as well to enter advanced placement the following year.

V. Grades:

90% +	=	A
80-89%	=	B
70-79%	=	C
60-69%	=	D
Less than 60%		F

VI. Attendance:

The school policies for attendance and tardies will be followed. Please see Student Handbook for specifics.

VII. Rules/Discipline:

Maintain good manners with respect for the teacher and peers at all times.

1st – Warning

2nd – Clean classroom for 5 minutes after class

3rd – Detention

4th – Saturday School (call parent)

5th – 5% grade reduction (parent conference)

VIII. Participation:

Students will be expected to participate in class discussion, ask questions, take on speaking roles during class projects and be respectful to the teacher and their peers. All of these things will be considered when allocating class participation points.

IX. Contacting Teacher:

Mr. Steinback: ssteinback@pgusd.org / 831-646-6590 (X-303)

Mr. Morgan: cmorgan@pgusd.org / 831-646-6590 (X-298)

Due signed next class period for 10 point. It is also expected you have a class binder, composition journal and three dividers next class period.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date