



**NORTH POINTE**  
**Geography**  
**2019-2020 Syllabus**

Instructor: **Ms. Moertle**

E-mail: [tmoertle@pointeschools.org](mailto:tmoertle@pointeschools.org) \*\* Preferred method of communication (I will respond as quickly as I am able to your communication.)

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- 1 Composition Notebook
- Pens/pencils/highlighter
- 2” Binder with dividers (for each unit): Students will keep and organize their work by unit in this binder. Handouts, graded assignments, study guides, etc. are critical tools in understanding and retaining knowledge, so students will **KEEP THEM**.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Geography can be broken down into 5 sub-categories: Political Geography, Human Geography, Environmental Geography, Geographic Information Systems, and Physical Geography

All nations live within a geographic space; this class shows how the boundaries of countries have a major role in economics, environmental issues and even warfare. Topics include the history of nation states, boundary formations, issues of natural resources, geopolitical history, political and economic systems, the development of cities and the impacts of globalization. Additionally, this class focuses on how the world's population impacts the globe through discussion of concepts like population growth, economic development, urbanization, resource allocation, land use and geopolitics.

Students will expand their knowledge of the world we live through a combination of teacher lecture, note taking, in-class assignments, quizzes, group projects, and watching videos. At the culmination of this course, students should not only have a deeper knowledge of the world but a deeper compassion for different perspectives as they relate to culture, diversity, population, and world views.

### **UNITS**

Unit 1: Introduction to Geography

Unit 2: Population and Migration

Unit 3: Development/Culture

Unit 4: United States and Canada

Unit 5: Central America and Mexico

Unit 6: South America

Unit 7: Europe

Unit 8: Africa

Unit 9: Middle East

Unit 10: Asia

Unit 11: Indonesia and Oceania

## **COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **Classroom Rules**

**1. Be on time. 2. Respect yourself and others. 3. Be prepared. 4. Do your best work. 5. Maintain an environment for learning. 6. Keep a positive attitude. 7. Take responsibility. 8. Dress appropriately. 9. Use your time wisely.**

### **Attendance/Participation**

Students are expected to be in class every day. Please refer to the Student Handbook on the school's policies toward absences. Unexcused absences and absences due to out-of-school suspension will receive scores of zero on any assignments or assessments due that day. "If a student is absent for more than 9 days in a semester, the status of the class becomes an audit and their grades/ credits may be withheld. Parental excused, as well as unauthorized absences, will count toward a limit of 9 absences per semester. This policy does not include absences or tardiness due to school activities. Cases involving prolonged illness or unusual circumstances will be reviewed by administration." After 9 absences, students will lose credit for any assessment or assignment missed due to any subsequent absences.

Tardiness is absolutely unacceptable. It does not only affect the individual who is tardy, but his/her classmates. The first offense will result in a formal warning. Second and subsequent offenses will result in before/after school and/or lunch detention. Habitual tardiness will result in administrative action up to suspension and/or loss of credit for this course. For all periods, students must be present and in their assigned seats at the start of class at the final bell. Students must meet these two requirements in order to accrue credit for that day's assignments or assessments. If an assignment is due at the beginning of the hour and the student is tardy, the student may lose points.

### **Grading Policy**

Grading in this course will reflect a student's achievement relative to the assigned coursework (i.e.: tests, quizzes, homework, class work, participation, group projects, etc.). Each student will receive a letter grade upon completion of this course. This grade will correlate with the effort and achievement of individual students on class assessments and assignments. All assessments and assignments will be recorded in the online grading resource as "Total Points". All points, regardless of category (i.e.: tests/quizzes, classwork, homework), will be weighted equally to the calculation of the course grade. Students and parents can access course grades using the Online Academic Resource via the Student Grades link on [www.northpointeprep.com](http://www.northpointeprep.com).

The grade percentages that correlate with the actual letter grade are listed below.

Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D

Below 60%	F
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**Semester Grades:** Per North Pointe Social Studies Department policy, semester grades will be weighted as follows: 40% (Quarter 1/3) + 40% (Quarter 2/4) + 20% (Final Exam)

**Late Work:** Students will be expected to turn all assignments in on time as no late work will be accepted unless prior authorized by myself or an administrator. Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval. All extra credit assignments will not be accepted late.

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICIES**

**Plagiarism:** You are expected to submit your own work and to identify any portion of work that has been borrowed from others in any form. An ignorant act of plagiarism on final versions and minor projects, such as attributing or citing inadequately, will be considered a failure to master an essential course skill and will result in an F for that assignment. A deliberate act of plagiarism, such as having someone else do your work, or submitting someone else's work as your own (e.g., from the Internet, fraternity file, etc., including homework and in-class exercises), will at least result in an F for that assignment and could result in an F for the course.

**E-Device Policy:** Use of electronic devices, including smart watches and cell phones is prohibited during exams or quizzes unless directly allowed by the instructor. If a cell phone, or other like device, causes a disruption to the class, it will be confiscated for the class period. Multiple occurrences will lead to confiscation for a full academic day and/or turning the device into the front office to be picked up by a parent. Insubordination in regard to device use may result in administrative, disciplinary action. Devices may not be in sight during any testing period. This includes when a student is finished with an assessment. Use or presence of a device during an exam or quiz will automatically render a score of zero for the student.

**Mandatory Tutoring Policy:** If a student is earning a grade of D or F, they must attend tutoring from 2:35pm-3:30pm Mondays and Wednesdays until their grade improves to at least a C. Before these tutoring sessions, students will sign an Individualized Academic Probation Plan. This plan is designed for students to commit to specific, problem-solving strategies to improve their grade to at least a C. The school day, per North Pointe policy, starts at 7:30am and concludes at 3:30pm. In this respect, students must attend tutoring sessions if their grade falls below a C. Failure to report to or refusal to effectively participate in tutoring will be considered insubordination and subject to administrative action.

**Course Failure Policy:** Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions. Students who fail a semester core course are required to attend Academic Friday School from 12:15 pm - 3:30 pm the following semester to make up the credit. Students who fail to attend Academic Friday School are subject to disciplinary action.

**Parent Communication** Parents may contact me using the contact information listed at the top of this syllabus. Due to other responsibilities, I am not available for face-to-face meetings. Email

is the best mode of contact. Behavior and academic issues will warrant parent contact. Administration will step in if an issue remains unresolved.