

World Geography

Hello High School

2020-2021 COURSE SYLLABUS

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Course Description

This course is designed to help you better understand our constantly changing and complex world through a study of geography. We will study geography from the physical, political, and cultural prospective through the five basic geographical themes:

- Location
- Place
- Human-Environment Interaction
- Movement
- Region

Special emphasis will be placed on geographical skills, and geographical literacy (locating countries, capitals, and physical features of the world).



Supplies

An important part of high school is developing effective organizational strategies and habits.

The following tools are recommended to help keep you organized:

- Notebook
- Pencils/Pens
- 1 ½" - 2" Binder with dividers for each unit

Units of Study



- Thinking Geographically
- Africa
- The United States and Canada
- Southwest Asia
- Latin America
- South and East Asia
- Europe and Eurasia
- Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific



*"The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world."
– Barack Obama*

Distance Learning

When it comes to distance learning, students are expected to adhere to the same standards of behavior online that they follow at school. Classes will happen during their regularly scheduled time and students are expected to show up on time for class. After logging in, they should mute themselves but keep their video on until I have taken attendance. At this time, students may turn off their cameras if they wish to. If a student is experiencing technical issues and cannot sign into class, they should email me immediately. The expectations for students remain the same online as they are in person as it applies to attendance, assignments, and assessments.

Attendance

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 in-school or out-of-school suspension receive scores of zero on any assignments or assessments due that day.

I do understand there are unavoidable circumstances in which a student will be absent. When this occurs, it is the student's responsibility to acquire materials (i.e.: notes, assignments, etc..) they missed.

Tardiness

Tardiness is absolutely unacceptable. It does not only affect the individual who is tardy, but their classmates. The first offense will result in a formal warning. Habitual tardiness will result in administrative action to suspension and/or loss of credit for this course.

Leaving the Classroom

It is the student's responsibility to come to class prepared. Once the final bell rings, students are expected to have their materials for that day ready immediately. With the exception of using the restroom and calls from the front office and 4A Center, students will not be permitted to leave the classroom during class time. If a student needs to use the restroom, they may raise their hand to be excused. In this case, students are to sign out on the student log, located at the back of the classroom, and turn in their cell phone to the teacher.

Class Expectations



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

Grading Policy

Grading Philosophy

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.).

Course Grading

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.

Late Work

Late work will receive a one-letter grade deduction per day late. After two days, I will **NOT** accept late work. If a student develops a habit of not turning in work on time, immediate communication with both the student and their parent/guardian will occur to resolve the issue. This policy is meant to prepare students for the time management skills needed in a challenging life beyond high school.

The obvious exception is if the student is ill or absent. Per the Student Handbook, students are granted two days upon their return to make up class work and must complete tests and quizzes immediately upon their return.

Plagiarism

Students are expected to submit their own work and to identify any portion of work that has been borrowed from others in any form. Most instances of plagiarism are accidental, but this does not make it acceptable. If a student engages in plagiarism, they will receive a grade of 0 on whatever assignment, test, or project that contains the plagiarism. Further occurrences will result in administrative discipline. Plagiarism is serious business; students must make sure to evaluate their work carefully and critically to avoid this pitfall.

Grade Breakdown

The grade percentages that correlate with the actual letter grade are listed below. Final grade calculation: 40% Q1 + 40% Q2 + 20% Final Exam

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

EXTRA CREDIT

- Extra credit will be available at my discretion. Students are welcome to propose an extra credit opportunity, but they must bear in mind that not every proposal will be accepted.

Expected Student Behavior

Student Attention

Students will be expected to pay attention during the lesson. Paying attention while someone else is speaking is a major part of creating a respectful environment. In addition, most of the course material will be presented via lecture. Notes are mandatory to do well in this class. The majority of the information will not be blatantly printed on the provided materials. This means that you will have to attend to the entire lecture and generate your own, marginal notes consistently. This is preparation for a college environment, where student-centered note-taking is a crucial skill.

Cell Phones and Other Devices

Cell phones and other devices (i.e.: smart watches, tablets, handheld games, etc.) are not to be used during the class period unless instructed otherwise for the facilitation of coursework. 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.

Discussion Decorum

Throughout this course, we will be discussing and viewing some very controversial issues. It is expected that students respectfully agree and disagree with one another. **I will not tolerate any personal attacks or rude comments between any students.** Any breach of this decorum will result in loss of credit for the assignment that day and potentially 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. Email is the best mode of contact. If students are having behavior problems or academic issues, I will contact parents to inform them of the problem and enlist their aid in solving it. If the issue remains unsolved, administration will take over to resolve it.