

Name of Course – World Geography (7th Grade)

Course Length – Year-long.

Class Textbook/Materials –

- * Holt, Rinehart & Winston; 2009; www.my.HRW.com
 - Introduction to Geography (ISBN 978-0-03-099507-1)
 - The Americas (ISBN 978-0-03-099537-8)
 - South and East Asia and the Pacific (ISBN 978-0-03-099540-8)
 - Europe and Russia (ISBN 978-0-03-099538-5)
 - Africa (ISBN 978-0-03-099506-4)
 - Southwest and Central Asia (ISBN 978-0-03-099539-2)
- * Peachtree Publications:
 - Irasshai Explorer: Japanese in the Middle School
(ISBN 1-892720-02-7)
- * Supplemental Internet Resources
- * Technical Sites (Google Earth, Sheppard Software, Map Quest, etc.)

Description of the course –

Students will study the physical and cultural geography of the world. While studying the world, the five fundamental themes of geographical study will be stressed. They are:

1. What are the absolute and relative locations of people and places?
2. What are the physical and human characteristics of places?
3. What are the human-environment relationships within the places being studied?
4. What movement occurs and how do humans interact with each other?
5. What are the major regions, how are they determined, and how do they change?

Course content and learning objectives –

The main objectives of the course are to expand the student's knowledge of physical attributes and the placement of political divisions in the world as well as to enhance the understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity beyond our local and national boundaries.

Listed below are the some of the main units that will be studied:

1. Physical and Political Geography studies for each unit
2. Rainforest
3. Asia (SW, S, E)
4. Australia & Oceania
5. Latin America
6. Europe and Russia
7. Africa
8. North America (with Illinois emphasis)
9. In-depth Japanese Cultural Studies

Improvement of students' reading and organizational skills will be stressed throughout the year as well.

Map quizzes will be given in the first half of each Unit, cultural topics will be covered in the second half, and a test will be given after each Unit. Periodic information-based quizzes will be implemented when deemed appropriate by the teacher.

Daily/weekly assignments, grading procedures, and special projects -

Assignments: An assignment will be given most days. All effort will be given to allow for at least partial completion of assignments within the class period.

Special projects: Projects will be done when sufficient time is available. Topics will either be pertinent to class content or ever-changing current events (i.e. 2008 presidential election, 2009 Lincoln's 200th birthday celebration, 2010 Winter Olympics, etc.).

All grades will adhere to the District grading scale. Grades will be weighted as follows:

Daily assignments: 1x

Quizzes: 2x

Tests: 3x

Projects: to be determined by size and scope of project

Late assignments:

1 day: Full grade minus 20%

2 days: Full grade minus 50%

3+ days: No grade/Zero

Note: Incomplete work may be handed in on time and graded "as-is" or may be handed in late and incur the appropriate reduction as stated above. The student will make this choice.

According to Geneseo CUSD #228 School Board Policy 6:60 and in compliance with Illinois School Code:

- In kindergarten through grade 8, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) reading, (c) other communication skills, (d) science, (e) mathematics, (f) social studies, (g) art, (h) music, and (i) drug and substance abuse prevention.
- In all grades, character education must be taught including respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship in order to raise students' honesty, kindness, justice, discipline, respect for others, and moral courage.
- In grade 7 and all high school courses concerning U.S. history or a combination of U.S. history and American government, students must view a Congressional Medal of Honor film made by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, provided there is no cost for the film.
- In all schools, the curriculum includes a unit of instruction on the Holocaust and crimes of genocide, including Nazi atrocities of 1933-1945, Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan.