

7th Grade Geography and Area Studies
Mr. David DeVaughn
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Course Description: This course focuses on the study of people, places and the environments of the world with emphasis on world regions. The perspectives of the course are centered on the world's population and cultural characteristics, landforms, climates, economic development, migration and settlement patterns. Spatial concepts will be used to study interactions between humans and their environments. Through a variety of classroom activities, students will gain an appreciation and understanding of the interdependent world in which they live. The students will be challenged to develop critical thinking skills and to broaden their concept of geography

Course Objectives: The students will be provided the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge as follows.

- Discover spatial organization of the world by using maps, globes, images and technology.
- Compare and contrast the physical and human characteristics of places.
- Interpret the complexity of the world by using the concept of regions.
- Explain the physical processes that shape patterns on the earth's surface.
- Analyze demographic information to determine population trends.
- Evaluate regional and global political problems from a multicultural perspective.
- Analyze the characteristics and distribution of the earth's ecosystems.
- Examine current events from a geographic perspective.

My Expectations:

1. **You will do all of the assignments and turn them in on time.** Completion of work is expected. Work that is not done will result in a zero for that assignment.
2. **Come see me if you are having problems.** I am on your side. I want to help you. If you don't know what to do, you need an explanation, you need help getting organized, come see me BEFORE it is too late. You know when you are not doing as well as you like to. That moment is the moment you should schedule an appointment.
3. **Student Responsibility**
Students are expected to come to class each day, on time and prepared. This means having read the assigned material before arriving to class; it means having completed all the written work for that day; it means bringing all required materials to class each day; it means participating in class discussions as well as contributing to any and all group activities.

Additionally, the following are my classroom expectations:

1. Show respect for yourself, your school, your teachers and other people.
 2. Pay attention during class sessions.
 3. Do not speak while others are speaking.
 4. Remain seated at all times (unless given permission to move).
 5. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the teacher.
 6. Follow all teacher directions immediately the first time.
4. **You must follow all school and class rules.** Disruptive behavior (talking, singing, or anything other than what I have asked you to do) will result in a warning then a detention if it continues. Any behavior that violates school rules will result in a referral to the Assistant Principal's Office. Failure to meet my expectations will result in temporary classroom removal, before/after school detentions (my choice), conference with parent/guardian, and/or referral to the Assistant Principal.

Classroom Procedures:

1. **CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK:** You must bring your homework to class ON TIME!!! Each quarter you will receive three late work passes. You may only turn in late work if accompanied by a late work pass. Your parent/guardian must sign and date the pass before you turn in your assignment. Use the passes wisely; once they are gone, they are gone. Late work must be turned in by the last day of the quarter.
2. **MAKE-UP POLICY:** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain and complete any missing work.
3. **TESTS**– A test will be given at the end of each unit. Each test will be a combination of short answer and essay, multiple choice, matching, or true/false questions. All material that is in the textbook may appear on the test in addition to material covered in class that may or may not be in the textbook. All students are expected to take the exam on the scheduled test date.
4. **QUIZZES** – Both announced and unannounced quizzes will be given in this class. Expect at least one quiz each week. It is your responsibility to schedule time to make-up the quizzes you have missed.
5. **EXIT TICKETS** – At the end of the majority of class periods we will have a quick check for understanding of the day’s key concepts. This will help guide instruction for the next class meeting as we work towards mastery.
6. **FOOD AND DRINKS** – No food or open drinks are allowed in class. Closed water bottles are ok.
7. **PASSES** – Student planners will be used for all passes. No passes will be issued for students who are not prepared for class (having to return to your locker after the bell will result in a tardy)

Academic Honesty

Mr. DeVaughn, as well as Ben Eielson Jr/Sr High School, expects honesty from students in presenting all of their academic work. Students are responsible for knowing and observing accepted principles of scholarly research and writing in all academic work. Penalties for violation of the standards of academic honesty may be severe, such as assignment or course failure and suspension or expulsion from school.

All forms of academic dishonesty including cheating, fabricating, facilitating academic dishonesty and plagiarism are violations of the Student Code of Conduct. Cheating is defined as using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise. Fabrication is defined as faking data, footnotes or other evidence. Plagiarism is defined as representing the works or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise. It includes, but is not limited to, copying materials directly, failure to cite sources of arguments and data and failure to explicitly acknowledge joint work or authorship of assignments.

If you are interested in excelling in the classroom, then it will take effort on your part. Take responsibility for you own academic performance. Grades are a reflection of your own work and effort.

GRADING COMPONENTS:

1. Only exceptional work gets an ‘A’, read those rubrics carefully!
2. If you have a B+, that’s what you have. Don’t ask me about extra credit. I give opportunities for extra credit through out the grading period. If you don’t take them, don’t ask me to create special assignments just for you later. **In all cases, extra credit counts only if you have turned in all of the regular assignments.**
3. I make mistakes, if there is a mistake on your paper, or you disagree with a grade, come see me at lunch or a prearranged time. I honestly can’t deal with it while I am trying to teach class. I want to give you a fair hearing, not thirty seconds while I am distracted with other things

All grades will be based on cumulative points earned. The following grading scale will be used

99-100% is an A+	Any type of A indicates that you have completed all of the assignments at an excellent level and that you have demonstrated a sophisticated understanding of the Alaska State Standards, the Social Science Skills Standards, and all additional material. Your analysis and oral and written expression are clear, cogent, and indicate an understanding of the interconnectedness of the 5 Themes of Geography.
94-98% is an A	
90-93% is an A-	
88-89% is a B+	A grade of ‘B’ indicates that you have done an <u>above average</u> job on most or all of the assignments. The requirements were met and, in addition, you demonstrated creativity and attention to detail. However, your work does not demonstrate an exceptional understanding of all of the Alaska State Standards, the Social Science Skills Standards, and all additional material, and has spots where there is room for improvement. Your analysis and oral and written expression are clear, cogent, and indicate an understanding of the 5 Themes of Geography, but there is focus on factual reporting as opposed to synthesis or analysis.
84-87% is a B	
80-83% is a B-	
78-79% is a C+	A grade of ‘C’ indicates that you have done an average job on all or most of your assignments (or that you are missing a major assignment). A C is not the same as an ‘F’, it means you demonstrate an understanding of most of the State Standards, the Social Science Skills Standards, and all additional material, but has major areas where there is room for improvement. Your oral and written expression are clear, cogent, and indicate an understanding of the 5 Themes of Geography, but there is focus on factual reporting as opposed to synthesis or analysis. Your analysis and synthesis are probably weak (essentially, you cannot answer “why” or “how” but you can answer “what”).
74-77% is a C	
70-73% is a C-	

I have received and read all the information in Mr. DeV Vaughns' 2016-2017 Global Geography and Culture syllabus. I have read and understand the class expectations and grading policy.

Print Students Name: _____ Grade: _____

Students Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Parents Name: _____

Phone: _____

Parents e-mail address:

Parents Signature: _____ Date: _____

*****Parents you can also email me this information if it is more convenient to use e-mail.*****