



## **WORLD CULTURES AND GEOGRAPHY 2017-2018**

COURSE CODE SOC 101 & SOC 102

**Mr. Adam Didesch & Mr. Michael Doyle**

**Office Hours:**

**Didesch:** 4<sup>th</sup> period or by appointment

**Doyle:** 7th period or by appointment

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World Cultures and Geography is a thematic course that will enable students to develop an understanding of their world through an examination of a variety of cultures and their interaction with the physical geography of the world. This yearlong course will study six different regions of the world: North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, North Africa and Southwest Asia, and Africa South of the Sahara. By examining the culture and geography found in each of these six regions of the world, students will gain an appreciation of the vast diversity of the human experience and the richness of human culture. This understanding will be accomplished by examining several aspects of culture that are common to all peoples—language, geography, social groups, religion, economy, beliefs, art, food, and recreation.

**This is a co-taught classroom and both teachers are equally responsible for course requirements, instruction, grades and classroom management.**

**Standards/Expectations:**

1. Students will gain global perspectives of elements that are common to all people such as art, music, entertainment, economy, religion, food, and traditions.
2. Students will develop a sense of how cultures relate to each other and co-exist and develop appreciation and respect for other cultures.
3. Students will gain a greater understanding of their own geography and culture through the study of other geographies and cultures.

**Assessments**

There will be a variety of different assessments used in this course. Daily class work will be assessed for learning, and will often be graded. Each unit will also have a map quiz. Peer and self-evaluation will also be used, especially during and after group projects. Summative assessments will come in the form of an end of unit test comprised of a multiple choice section and a free response section.

## Content

(Instructors do reserve the right to change timelines)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

*Introduction (2 Weeks)*  
North America (7 Weeks)  
Central and South America (4 Weeks)  
Europe (5 Weeks)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

Asia (8 Weeks)  
Middle East and North Africa (6 Weeks)  
Sub-Saharan Africa (4 Weeks)

## Instructional Strategies

Much of this class will be centered on in class discussion of various topics and issues relating to world cultures. Students will often be working with partners or in groups, especially on class projects. Projects, especially art projects relating to the cultures we will study, make up a portion of the grade. The focus will be on students working collaboratively to gain an understanding of the numerous and diverse cultures which make up the world we live in.

## Resources

World Geography and Cultures (Glencoe) **TEXTBOOK**

Student World Atlas (Holt)

## Academic / Behavioral Expectations

**We expect that you display two behaviors that will make you successful in this classroom (and in life): Respect and Responsibility. Below are some basic explanations for each of these.**

### **RESPECT**

- **Respect each other's feelings, ideas and differences:** Everyone at Hempstead deserves to feel comfortable and safe. When we are ignorant of others' feelings and intolerant of their differences and opinions, we make others feel uncomfortable and less likely to be active members of our learning community. Everyone in our classroom, including the adults, will show respect toward one another. Name calling, bullying, mocking, and threats will not be tolerated at any time!
- **Respect the learning environment:**
  - **Use language that is respectful and appropriate to the school setting:** It doesn't take a lot of intelligence to use bad language. Show that you have class and a good academic vocabulary when you are in our classroom.
  - **Electronic devices:** Please turn off your electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, MP3, etc) or do not bring them to class. No earphones will be allowed to be worn in the room during instructional time. If it constantly an issue we will have a discussion outside of class about appropriate use of technology.

- **Water and Food:** Only clear water in clear containers will be allowed in the classroom. Absolutely no food is allowed in the rooms (this includes candy). We will allow gum as long as it does not start appearing underneath desks.
- **Dress Code:** No hats, hoods, or bandanas are to be worn in class. Hats should be left in your locker. We will follow school policy on inappropriate clothing (per student handbook) and on all other aspects related to students. Students are expected to wear their student ID's at all times.
- **Academic Dishonesty:** It is assumed that any work that a student submits is indeed their own and reflects their best effort. Any student caught plagiarizing or cheating on any assignment, project, or assessment will be dealt with according to the cheating/plagiarism policy outlined on page 32-33 of the student planner.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance in class is a must for your success! Unexcused absences will follow the Hempstead Attendance Policy which may be viewed in full on the school website. If you are absent it is solely your responsibility to check Canvas or to see me to get any work you missed and complete it by the next class period.
- **Tardiness:** Be to class on time. It is a sign of responsibility and respect for the learning environment. Please sign in on the clipboard near the door if you come in late.
- **Passes: No passes will be given unless you have your agenda.** Passes should only be used if it is an emergency. Use your five minutes of passing time wisely and go to the restroom or get a drink within that time frame.
- **Homework:** Homework is to be completed by the time class starts and handed in during your period to receive full credit. Late work will be accepted but will only receive partial credit, and only up until the Friday after it was due. We will discuss extra credit opportunities if they become available.
- **Come to class prepared:** We will be prepared for class every day, you should be too. Bring all required materials and be ready to learn.

**Evaluation/Assessment:**

**Grading Scale**

93% - 100% A	73% - 76% C
90% - 92% A-	70% - 72% C-
87% - 89% B+	67% - 69% D+
83% - 86% B	63% - 66% D
80% - 82% B-	60% - 62% D-
77% - 79% C+	0% - 59% F

**Grading Categories**

Tests/Quizzes	40%
Homework/Projects	50%
Semester Test	10%

Students grades will come from a combination of tests/quizzes, class work, projects, participation in class discussions, and the semester test. There will be a unit test at the end of each unit composed of a multiple choice section and a written response section. This is an approximate breakdown of the grade distribution. The semester final will be worth 10% of the final grade.

### **Communication**

The best way to reach me is by email:

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