

Syllabus

Course Name: PRACTICAL WORLD CULTURES
Course Code: XSM141 (1st Semester) XSM142 (2nd Semester)
Teacher Name: Mr. Doyle
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Office Hours: 7th Hour Prep (1:33-2:20) or by appointment



Course Description:

This course allows students to experience and investigate key social studies concepts. It integrates the history, geography, and culture of other countries. 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 regional cultures and geography. This year-long course will study six different regions of the world including: North America, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, North Africa/Southwest Asia and Africa South of the Sahara. By examining the culture and geography in these regions of the world, students gain an appreciation of the vast diversity of the human experience and the richness of human culture. This understanding will be accomplished by examining general aspects of culture that are common to all peoples: language, literature, art, music, economy, religion, food, recreation, and traditions, as well as an in-depth study of the geography of each region of the world.

Aligns with essential concepts and skills of the Iowa Core in Geography Grades 9-12:

Understand how human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans. Integrates the history, geography, and culture of other countries.

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.

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	20%
Quizzes	15%
Homework/Class Work	20%
Projects	20%
Semester Test	10%
Participation/Teamwork	15%

Plan of study:

(Instructors do reserve the right to change timelines)

1st Semester

Introduction to Geography

North America

Central and South America

Australia

2nd Semester

East Asia

Southwest Asia & Middle East

Sub-Saharan Africa

Europe

Behavior 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 ear phones will be allowed to be worn in the room. If a staff member hears or sees any of these being used during class, it will be turned off and taken by us for the remainder of the period. It will be your responsibility to come and get it back. Refusal or subsequent offenses will result in your device being turned into the AP Office (per student handbook). In the event of an emergency, have your guardian contact the office.
 - **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. These items will be taken and given to the AP office.
 - **Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating and plagiarism will follow school policy (per student handbook). You will receive a 0% for the assignment and/or test with a possibility of being dropped from the course. In addition, your guardians and guidance counselor will be notified. Plagiarism is a pet peeve of mine, so just don't do it.

RESPONSIBILITY

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance in class is a must for your success! Unexcused absence will follow the Hempstead Attendance Policy which may be viewed in full on the school website. When you are absent, it is solely your responsibility to see me to get any work you missed and complete it by the next class period.
 - <http://cdn.dbqschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/schoolboard-5107SchoolAttendance.pdf>
- **Tardiness:** Be to class on time. It is a sign of responsibility and respect for the learning environment. Excessive tardies will result in consequences as described in the Dubuque Community School District 5200: Student Behavior: Expectations and Consequences, located in your parent/student handbook.
- **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 half credit, and only up until the **Unit Test**. 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.

Communication:

The best way to reach me is by email: mdoyle@dbqschools.org