World Geography Syllabus

School Year: 2015-2016

Teacher: Trent Vittrup, Room A107

Tutoring: 8:20 – 8:50am or by appointment

E-mail: trent.vittrup@dsisdtx.us

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the systematic and scientific study of the principles of Geography. You will be exposed to the ways in which we study maps, physical geography and human geography on a global scale.

MY ROLE: My job is simple, be a facilitator. I will do best to make sure that I present you with numerous opportunities for you to experience and learn the principles of Geography, but it will be up to you to faithfully seize those opportunities to learn and grow from them. You must be accountable for your own growth and learning. I can’t do it for you, but I will do all I can to show you the ins and outs of Geography in a way that is engaging, interesting and helpful.

MATERIALS:

1. A folder/binder to keep notes, handouts and other paper items in.
2. A spiral for notes.
3. Pens (blue or black ink), pencils, highlighters, and colored map pencils.
4. Textbook – World Geography McGraw-Hill from the book room.
5. Laptop or Tablet (if available due to limited availability of class sets)

COURSE GRADES: Your grade in this class will be determined by your performance and engagement daily in class, assignments, projects and exams. There may or may not be opportunities for extra credit to help your standing throughout the semester, but do not get in a position where you are counting on something like that. There is no reason why you cannot be successful in this class if you will take care of your business outside of the classroom and ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE in the classroom.

Your course average will be determined by the following percentages:

 1. Summative Assessments (Tests/Projects) 70%

 2. Formative Assessments (Assignments/Class Participation) 30%

POSTING GRADES: I will put grades into the online gradebook as quickly as I can. Written assignments, tests and projects may take longer to grade. I know you want to know your grades as soon as possible, and I will do my best to get them back to you in a timely manner.

PROGRESS REPORTS: Progress Reports will be sent home every 3 weeks whether a student is meeting expectations or not.

LATE-ABSENT WORK: A student is allowed one late assignment per 6-weeks to be graded with the highest possible grade a 70. Outside of that one assignment, NO late work will be accepted. Students that are absent may submit an assignment within the amount of days they missed, plus one day. Example: A student who misses 3 days of my class will have 4 days to return all missed assignments.

TUTORIALS/CONFERENCES: I have a brief tutorial period from 8:20 – 8:50am and a conference during 3rd or 7th periods (12:30 – 2pm). If you wish to meet with me outside the tutorial period, please set up an appointment. The best way to schedule these appointments with me is by e-mail.

TESTS: You will be expected to take exams on the scheduled exam days. If you know that you will be absent on a scheduled exam date, I prefer that you take the exam PRIOR to your absence; however, if that is not possible, you will be expected to take the make-up ON THE DAY YOU RETURN. Make-up tests/quizzes will be made up by appointment, outside of class. Failure to meet an appointment for a make-up exam will result in a zero for that exam.

TEST CORRECTIONS: You can make corrections on tests if you make a grade of less than 70 if the following steps are taken:

1. You must finish and turn in the corrections within 5 days of receiving your grade.
2. No grade higher than a 70 can be received with corrections.
3. Corrections may not be done for semester exams.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY: Plain and simple. A Panther does not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate those that do. Cheating on a test, plagiarizing, unauthorized collaboration with other people or any other forms of cheating are unacceptable and will result in a “0” for the assignment. Do not do it. It is not worth it.

A Few Class Rules and Expectations:

1. Have a Good Attitude
2. Respect Classmates, Teachers and Your School
3. Be Prepared and Push Yourself
4. Be Accountable
5. Be Honest
6. Have a Sense of Humor

**Misbehavior with a substitute teacher will result in an office referral without a warning. Parents/Guardians will be notified upon my return.**