

World Geography



Course Syllabus Fall 2009 Ms. Brimhall

Course Overview - **New and improved** version 2009

GPS and geocaching have been added to the course! Stay tuned for more details. World Geography will consist of the basic elements of geography and the physical, political, and cultural aspects of various regions of the world. Anticipated regions of the world to be visited: North America (with geocaching right here in Lancaster County), South America, Oceania and Asia. Specific regions to be covered may include Tibet, Japan, Cambodia, Chile, Peru, Brazil & the Amazon River Basin, Canada, Yucatan Peninsula, and New Zealand.

YOUR interests will help to guide the direction of this course as well. Begin to think of issues and topics you would like to learn more about. I will make every effort to incorporate your interests into World Geography.

How do I pass this class?

The requirements outlined below **MUST** be fulfilled to earn a passing grade (60%+).

1. Attend class regularly. **PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY** and cooperate.
2. Come to class prepared with all assignments completed before you arrive. Late work: One day late is late. You will receive ½ credit for late work up to two days.
3. Make-up **ALL** missed work within **3 days or a 0 will be given**. (It is **YOUR** responsibility to see me before or after school for missed work. Do not expect reminders from me.)
4. Keep all handouts, notes, assignments, readings, etc. organized for test preparation.
5. Complete activities and projects by stated deadlines. This includes completing the Travel Planner Final Project. Failure to do so will severely affect your grade and ability to pass the course.
6. The grade for the semester will be averaged by total points. Be consistent throughout the semester.

Other information

Participation is important. The more involved everyone is, the more interesting the class. A subjective participation grade will be given based on your class involvement orally, your cooperation with me and your classmates, your preparation for class and your attitude in class. Everyone starts out with 50 points each marking period. It is up to you whether you keep them or lose them.

Rev.8/2009

Not always, but often assignments will be given in class and time allotted to start if not complete them. If you take advantage of this time, outside class work should be minimal.

Expect handouts, worksheets, packets, text questions, and readings from the text and other sources. Organizing these materials is important. Keeping a notebook is highly advisable.

If you complete classroom assignments early ... find something else to do QUIETLY. Read a National Geographic, a personal magazine/book, work on your project, study for a quiz/test, do other homework, etc. You will have work to do on your Travel Planner project so you can always bring this with you. Back it up on a flashdrive!!!

Final Project

Your final project for World Geography will consist of highly motivated research on an area of the world to which you want to travel. The final project will incorporate concepts taught throughout the semester. It will be due approximately three weeks before the end of the semester. Stay tuned for exact due dates. This project will NOT be accepted late.

Your project will include completion of a **packet** and a **presentation**. Presentations are expected to be professional, thorough, well organized, interesting and show evidence of research. Be sure to have a back-up of your project. Put it in your school folder but also have it saved to a flashdrive, jumpdrive, etc. "Losing" your project isn't acceptable with today's technology. Be mindful.

Presentations will be 6-10 minutes in length. Presentations MUST be visual. I would strongly suggest PowerPoint presentations as a good visual medium. Know how to use PhotoStory or make an interactive webpage? Go for it! You may include charts, graphs, maps, video clips, a homemade travel video, etc. Be creative with your visual possibilities! If you're unsure, ask.

Further specifications will be forthcoming.

Plagiarism (also known as cheating): I expect all work to be done INDIVIDUALLY unless specified otherwise. Anyone who comes to class without an assignment done and uses a neighbor's assignment to quickly get it done will be given a "0" along with the person who offered his/her paper.

Plagiarism is defined in Webster's Collegiate Dictionary as "to steal or pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own". It is ESSENTIAL that you give credit to sources used. Direct quotations need to be "quoted" and any paraphrased sections need to be given credit. If you have questions about what it means to plagiarize - ask your English teacher, the school librarians or Ms. Brimhall. NO EXCUSES. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Don't jeopardize your high school graduation by plagiarizing.

Additional Notes: If at any time you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with me at an appropriate time. You may also email me at l_brimhall@easdpa.org.

Let's travel!!

Ms. Brimhall