



OUR WORLD: A Geographic Investigation

WORLD GEOGRAPHY & CULTURES

COURSE EXPECTATIONS...NINTH GRADE SOCIAL SCIENCE

The purpose of Oak Park's freshman social science curriculum is to provide students the means to explore the world of geography and cultures, both near and far. Through these opportunities, students are able to gain a better understanding of the world around them. The expectations of the course are high, but fair and extremely attainable. Students are challenged to **engage**, and **explore**, to **strive**, and **achieve**...if *risks* are taken, gains **WILL** be made! "Our World: A Geographic Investigation" is a course that invites, encourages, and prompts personal involvement...**what are you prepared to do**...to make a difference in **YOUR** world? It is in this spirit that the following characteristics were adopted, in order to help shape expectations for **ALL** participants...

COURSE CHARACTERISTICS:

- * well-structured and organized; clear goals and objectives
- * fair and attainable requirements
- * varied activities and learning opportunities
- * introduction to "the world out there" through geography

STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS:

- * accountability for one's actions, as well as group conduct
- * academic and personal integrity; ethical conduct
- * curiosity and initiative; genuine effort
- * awareness and respect of "the diversity of the world out there"

ONCE YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS HAS BEEN RAISED, IT CANNOT BE LOWERED...

Positive involvement in class and group activities helps to create successful students, as does being prepared, motivated, and respectful of oneself and others. Encouragement, support, and assistance from home are an invaluable asset to each student. An extensive video library has been developed to enhance the course, as well as to reflect current areas of world focus. These 'glimpses' into regional geography and culture are used to support and deepen student understanding and awareness of various curricular areas...an introduction to the realities, opportunities, and challenges of life outside of Oak Park, California, and the United States.

General course syllabus...

- Unit 1... Basic concepts of geography & culture including: 5 themes of geography; local/world landforms, resources, & climates.
- Unit "2"... An overview of *The United Nations* including: origins, purpose, structure, strengths/weaknesses, and potential future.
- Unit 3... The physical and cultural geography of *Latin America and the Caribbean*.
- Unit 6... The physical and cultural geography of *North Africa and the Middle East {Southwest Asia}*.
- Unit 7... The physical and cultural geography of *Africa South of the Sahara {Sub-Saharan Africa}*.
- Unit 9... The physical and cultural geography of *China and the Far East*.
- Unit 11... The physical and cultural geography of *The Pacific World: Australia, Antarctica, and Oceania*.
- GEOFEST: A FESTIVAL OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY
- Final Exam



OPUSD District Motto: 'Educating Compassionate and Creative Global Citizens'

The mission of Oak Park Unified School District is to provide students with a strong foundation for learning which meets the challenge of the present and of the future through a balanced education which includes academic achievement, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Evaluation tools will be of a wide variety and will potentially include: activities, discussions, projects, quizzes, and tests. Assignments are an integral part of the curriculum and as such, need to be completed on time. (*Special circumstances can always occur and will be worked out on an individual basis.*) It is expected that students be prepared to maintain ALL assessment dates even in the case of an absence; there should be no surprises. The provided unit calendars reinforce reading schedules, due dates, and test/quiz dates and therefore, upon return from absence, students should expect to complete ALL assessments, as scheduled. Students have ONE class period after an assigned due date to turn in "late" work to receive 50% of the earned credit... after that time, the assignment will not be accepted.

Students returning from absence will be provided a personalized accounting of work missed and subsequent due dates. However, it will be the RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT to make sure all makeup work is completed/turned in as required. Additionally, those students who are involved in extracurricular activities need to be very aware of scheduled assessment and due dates that will be missed. It is the responsibility of the student to make alternate arrangements IN ADVANCE, BEFORE THE CLASS THAT WILL BE MISSED...DO NOT FORGET!



'Getting Started'...

Please make sure that you and your parent/guardian have had the opportunity to review and discuss the various expectations for our class, **TOGETHER!** The understanding and awareness of these requirements, assignments, and activities are important, in order to stay on the path for a successful semester! The following, basic guidelines should be helpful in getting started...

- Published course expectations cover general policies, positive academic behaviors, semester topics, types of assessments, and the timetable for homework, absence, and make-up situations.
- Unit standards and unit calendars, including assignment, quiz and test dates, are provided at the beginning of each new unit.
- Frequently updated course information, including the posting of unit calendars, is available through the school's website at: www.opusd.org under Staff Pages → Kimberlee Galbreath
- Class materials, including the textbook, are expected to be in class, EVERYDAY... not left at home or in lockers! (As determined by semester enrollment, if a class set is available, students will keep their textbook for study, at home.)
- Upon return from absence, students should expect to complete any and all scheduled assessments, including tests and quizzes.
- Academic Honesty: Please make sure all work is your own; intellectual integrity, and integrity itself, are core tenants of OPHS and OPUSD.
- Grades are posted regularly on Q, for both student and parental/guardian access. The course grading system is based on points and percentage earned. Grades are not weighted in any way.

Thank you for your involvement and support this semester!

kgalbreath@opusd.org

Please detach and return this completed portion, as it is due NEXT class...

We have reviewed the Course Expectations and are clear as to what is expected of all students in *World Geography & Cultures* this semester; we are ready to 'get started' and explore our world!

Period: _____ Student name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____