



"The excitement of a world tour"

# World Geography: Fall Semester 2006

**Instructor:** Mr. Charles Elfer

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Welcome to World Geography! This course is intended to guide students through a survey of the various regions of the world and to explore the ways in which culture, history and environment shape the character of each. While we will spend a great deal of our time "traveling" abroad to the farthest and most remote corners of the globe, we will also study our own region and local geography in an effort to build an understanding of and appreciation for our immediate surroundings.

## **MATERIALS:**

- Notebook paper (can be notebook with perforated edges, but rough edged or frayed papers not acceptable)
- Blue or black pen only for all graded assignments (notes are left to student choice)
- One 2in. three-ring binder
- Student agenda
- Textbook: **World Geography Today**. (2005) Sager, R. & Helgren, D. Holt, Rinehart & Winston: Austin.

## **ASSESSMENT:**

**Quizzes & Tests:** Tests will cover content material and will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions. Occasionally, short essays will also be included. Quizzes will be designed to assess your map and globe skills, as well as your ability to recognize various locations around the world. You may drop **ONE** quiz *or* test grade during the semester. If you miss a test or quiz, however, this will count as your one drop opportunity unless pre-approved. Make-up tests will occur only before or after school, not during class time and it is your responsibility to schedule those meetings.

**Cumulative Final Exam:** Many of the core courses at the high school level now require end of the course tests and/or graduation exams. In order to prepare you for high stakes tests such as these, we, too, will have a cumulative final exam. Consistent with other state-mandated courses, the exam will count for 15% of your final grade. There will be a map component to the final exam. Likewise, the test is cumulative and will cover all content material introduced throughout the semester. The final exam is exemptible in accordance with Jefferson City High School policy.

**Homework:** The bulk of our work in World Geography will take place during school hours. You will, however, have homework on occasion. I anticipate one or two nights of homework per week, but this will vary depending on the unit of study. Homework does **NOT** include the time that you will want to spend studying on your own for map quizzes and tests.

<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Tests</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Cumulative Final Exam:</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Portfolio (Independent):</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Group Project:</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Daily Grades:</b>	<b>20%</b>

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**Total: 100%**

## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Respect:** Rules for the classroom are fairly straightforward (see student agenda). The main criterion for my classroom is respect. Respect yourself, respect your classmates and respect your instructor. Nothing less will be tolerated.

**Attendance:** There is an absolute relationship between student attendance and student performance. We will cover a great deal of material daily and our pace will be a steady one. Do not let yourself get behind. If you should miss class, for any reason, it is your responsibility to meet with me about material covered in your absence. Make-up work for excused absences must be turned in within five days. In accordance with Jefferson City High School policy, more than seven unexcused absences will result in automatic failure of the course. Likewise, tardiness is unacceptable. Be where you are supposed to be!

**1<sup>st</sup> Tardy:** One hour detention

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tardy:** Conference

**5<sup>th</sup> Tardy:** Two days ISS; two week parking suspension; letter to parent

**6<sup>th</sup> or More Tardies:** Saturday School and OSS

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tardy:** Two hour detention

**4<sup>th</sup> Tardy:** Referral; ISS

**Academic Tutoring:** I work for you and you should use this fact to your advantage. If you (or your parent or guardian) have questions about the course please talk to me. I am available before school between 7:30 and 7:55am and after school on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays until 3:30pm. I am also available by e-mail. Do not wait until the last minute, if you have questions or issues take action sooner rather than later.

\_\_\_\_\_ PARENT/GUARDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT

