

**World Cultures & Geography –Seventh Grade Syllabus**

**Gateway Middle School**

**Phone: 314-241-2295**

**“Game On, " - "I never lose, I either WIN or I LEARN" - Nelson Mandela**

The seventh-grade classroom for social studies focuses on World Cultures & Geography. Our curriculum and instruction will be delivered with the Missouri Learning Standards K-12 Expectations for Social Studies as our foundation. As such, by the end of the school year, the seventh-grade students will be able to:

**Knowledge and Understanding:**

(a) Demonstrate an understanding of major world regions, including their physical and human characteristics.

(b) Identify and describe the cultural, economic, political, and environmental factors that shape societies around the world.

(c) Understand the diversity of cultures, languages, religions, and traditions found in different regions.

(d) Recognize the impact of globalization and interdependence on societies and economies.

**Geographic Skills:**

(a) Use maps, globes, and other geographic tools to interpret and analyze information about world regions.

(b) Analyze spatial patterns, including population distribution, urbanization, and land use.

(c) Understand the impact of physical geography, such as climate, landforms, and natural resources, on human activities and development

(d) Analyze the movement of people, goods, and ideas across regions and the factors that influence these flows.

**Cultural Diversity and Interactions:**

(a) Analyze the cultural characteristics and practices of different societies, including language, religion, art, music, and cuisine.

(b) Understand the impact of cultural diffusion, migration, and trade on cultural diversity and interactions.

(c) Recognize the importance of cultural heritage and preservation of cultural sites.

(d) Analyze the challenges and benefits of cultural diversity in a globalized world.

**Global Issues and Perspectives:**

(a) Understand global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and conflict

(b) Analyze the interconnectedness of global issues and their impact on different regions and societies

(c) Recognize the role of international organizations and cooperation in addressing global issues.

(d) Understand multiple perspectives on global issues and develop skills for informed and responsible global citizenship.

**Historical and contemporary Contexts:**

(a) Understand the historical context of world events and developments, including major historical eras, revolutions, and independence movements.

(b) Analyze the connections between historical events and their impact on contemporary issues and conflicts.

(c) Recognize the contributions of different civilizations and cultures to the development of human society.

(d) Develop historical empathy and understand the experiences and perspectives of people from different times and places.

**Specific topics of study are shown below for the school year.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarter 1** | **Quarter 2** | **Quarter 3** | **Quarter 4** |
| **Geography**  **&**  **Africa** | **Europe**  **&**  **Russia** | **The Americas** | **Asia, Australia**  **&**  **The Pacific** |

**Learning Environment Behavior Expectations**

**RESPECT**: All students will respect themselves, their community members and their learning environment through language expressed, implied and other actions.

**READINESS**: All students must attend class every day and come prepared to actively participate in daily activities.

**RESPONSIBILITY**: All students must accept responsibility for themselves and their actions.

**Course Requirements**

1. Students must come to class prepared and ready to learn.

2. Tests are given at the end of each unit (with exceptions). In addition, there are SLPS, State and other standardized assessments that will be required.

3. Students will be given daily assignments, with plenty of class time in which to complete. If a student is not able to complete in class, it then may become homework, which is due at the next class session.

4. Extra credit assignments may be offered but are *not guaranteed*.

5. Students will participate in various group and individual projects.

**Late Work:** Late work will be accepted with the following expectations:

* **Excused absences**: It is the responsibility of the student to collect all work missed due to an absence. *Missed work should be completed and turned in for credit in a timely manner and discussed with the teacher.* In the event the student is absent during note taking it is the students responsibility to get the notes either from the teacher or another student. Exams missed due to absence can be taken before or after school.
* **Unexcused absences**: Students are expected to turn in completed work by the due date. *If students are unable to complete by the due date, late work will be accepted up through the last date given by the teacher before the end of the quarter grading schedule for which it was assigned UNLESS it was an assignment that was time sensitive, e.g. SLPS, State or other source assessment or task*.

**Cheating, Copying, Plagiarizing**

Cheating, copying and plagiarizing are forms of dishonesty. *Students caught copying will receive a zero for the assignment or test.* ***Allowing*** *someone to copy your completed paper will result in a zero for you as well.*

**Plagiarism:** to use the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own words or ideas. Source: http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/plagiarize Do not copy directly from the Internet source and try to turn it in as your own work. Changing one or two words from an Internet source is still plagiarism. Read the information, process the information, and then rewrite the information in your own words. Students who plagiarize receive a failing grade for that assignment.

**Attendance**

Regular attendance is crucial to academic success. If you must be absent due to illness or other issues, make sure that you get your missed work and return it on time to receive full credit.

**Grading**

The following is the grading scale for this class. All grades will be on a point system and converted to a letter grade for reporting purposes. The grade you earn is the grade that will be reflected on your progress report and report card.

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=59 and below

Students experiencing difficulties with the assignments and expectations of this course will be provided with opportunities for small group tutoring and collaboration.