



WORLD GEOGRAPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Robin Curry, Lance Davis, Jakob Howe, & Jason Speakes
2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

In World Geography Studies, students examine people, places, and environments at local, regional, national, and international scales from the spatial and ecological perspectives of geography. Students describe the influence of geography on events of the past and present with emphasis on contemporary issues. A significant portion of the course centers around the physical processes that shape patterns in the physical environment; the characteristics of major landforms, climates, and ecosystems and their interrelationships; the political, economic, and social processes that shape cultural patterns of regions; types and patterns of settlement; the distribution and movement of the world population; relationships among people, places, and environments; and the concept of region.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The frameworks found in the Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) will guide teacher instruction throughout the course. Specific TEKS for the course can be located at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/index.html> and <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter118/index.html>.

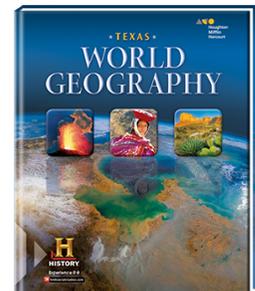
TEACHER INFORMATION

Robin Curry, Lance Davis, Jakob Howe, and Jason Speakes
Email Addresses: robincurry@misdmail.org, lancedavis@misdmail.org,
jakobhowe@misdmail.org, and jasonspeakes@misdmail.org

TEXTBOOK

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's *World Geography*, Texas Edition
 - Textbooks will be available to our students via the online edition compatible with their iPad. We will be registering students in class, and be sending out information on how to access the textbook for parents and guardians.

- iTunes U World Geography Course
 - An iTunes U course we be utilized in World Geography. Copies of all classroom materials including class notes and homework assignments will be posted in our iTunes U Course. All students are required to register for this course, and we will assist them with enrollment. The enrollment code for this course is: CPE-CFW-CPF.



MATERIALS

Required Materials: Three-ring binder (at least 2”), subject dividers, notebook paper, blue or black pen(s), #2 pencils, set of colored pencils, headphones, and their IPAD ***charged***. It is used in almost every class, and will be required to complete assignments. It is the students responsibility to ensure their iPad is charged and in working order. An inoperative iPad will not be an excuse for failure to complete class assignments.

Requested Materials*: Box of Kleenex, hand sanitizer, Expo dry-erase markers, and a set of colored pencils for class set.

**All requested materials will not be returned at the end of the school year, and these are NOT mandatory supplies. Your generosity is greatly appreciated☺.*

iPADS

Daily Procedure

- Close all applications on your iPad upon entering the classroom. At all points during class you may only have open the apps to be used in class during that specific class period. The opening of any additional app including any gaming, messaging or email feature will result in a disciplinary referral.
- ***When they are not in use, iPads need to be off the desk.***
- iPads need to remain flat on your desk or slightly propped (using the stand) when in use so that your screen can be viewed by the teacher at all times.
- Make sure your device has the sound off. You will be instructed when it is necessary for the sound to be on. In that case, you will be asked to use headphones.

BYOD Policy - Mansfield ISD has a BYOD policy in place; however, with access to iPads in the classroom daily, the use of any cellular device is only allowed with permission from the teacher. Having cell phones out in class without permission will result in disciplinary action.

ONLINE PRESENCE

Essential information can and will be shared through a variety of apps, websites, and iTunes U. It is to your advantage to use these in order to better prepare for class assessments, assignments, as well as class news and discussion.

PARENTS & SKYWARD ACCESS:

If you have computer access I strongly encourage you to establish an account. This can be done through the Mansfield ISD Website and it allows parents and students to keep track of their grades, attendance, and lesson plans. It is an excellent resource.

ATTENDANCE/TARDIES/ID/DRESS CODE

All students in this class will be subject to all MHS policies, as stated in your MHS Student Handbook. These policies (***including dress code & display of student identification cards***) will be strictly enforced.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students will not be graded on class participation. However, it is expected that students ask and be able to answer questions about topics. Any class behavior that is distracting in any way to the educational environment of the class will not be tolerated.

MISSED EXAMS/ASSIGNMENTS

If you are absent the day of an exam/quiz, you will make it up at the beginning of the next class period.

If you are absent the day before a test/quiz, you must still take the test.

The only way a student can be exempt from a test/quiz is if he/she is absent two of the three class periods prior to the test/quiz.

LATE WORK

Students will be assessed a penalty of 30 points per class period for up to one class period before a zero will be given for work not turned in on time.

If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you **MUST** turn in it in the **next** day. If you know you are going to be absent for a school-sanctioned activity, you are responsible for asking for your work in advance.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Acts of academic dishonesty (copying or allowing your work to be copied, cheating, plagiarism) will be dealt with swiftly and severely. MISD rules on academic dishonesty are explained in the Student Handbook. Any form of cheating will result in a zero, parent conference, and a principal referral.

GRADING POLICY

Weighted Categories:

- Major Assessments will count 50% of each student's six-week grade.
- Minor Assessments will count 50% of each student's six-week grade.

Students will have at least two major assessments such as tests, projects or other major assessments as determined by the teacher each six weeks. Students will have a wide variety of minor assessments during each six weeks, including daily grades, writing assignments, chapter quizzes, etc. Different weights can be given to the minor assessment category based on the difficulty and time involved in completing the assignment. Each teacher should take at least eight grades per Six-Week grading period.

Test Retakes:

Teachers will provide students the opportunity to be successful. In the event students fail to exhibit proficiency on the major assessment or tests, they will be encouraged to participate in the re-teaching/retesting process designed and determined by the teacher.

Students will be allowed to demonstrate proficiency of learning objectives by means of a retest for a maximum of 70% of the original score possible.

Students will have to make arrangements with the teacher to retake or redo a major test/assessment.

All retakes must be completed prior to subsequent tests and/or the end of each six week grading period. Students are encouraged to attend tutorials.

Mid-term or final exams **are not** to be included in the retake/retest process.

Re-Taking Other Major Assessments:

For re-takes of other major assessments (i.e. projects), the student will have the opportunity to re-take the assessment based on the original grading requirements. Per MISD policy, the highest grade a student can get in the re-take system is a 70.

Semester Exams:

Students will have a Semester Final at the end of each semester. It will count as 20% of the semester grade.

Semester Grades:

Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three six week reporting periods and the course semester exam.

First Six Weeks = 26% Second Six Weeks = 27% Third Six Weeks = 27%
Semester Exam = 20%

Course credit is awarded with a grade of 70 or higher. If a student fails either semester of any MISD yearlong course and passes the opposite semester with a high enough grade for an overall average of 70 for the full course, a full credit will be granted. In this situation, for averaging to occur, the courses must have been taken during the same school year and in consecutive semesters.

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

The course is divided into two semesters. This outline by no means shows everything that will be covered in the course, nor will it show exact dates. I firmly believe flexibility is required in the planning of any high school course so I prefer guidelines as opposed to specific day-by-day dictates.

FIRST SEMESTER

Unit 1	Introduction to Geography and Physical Processes
Unit 2	Climate and Environmental Regions
Unit 3	Governments and Economies of the World
Unit 4	Population, Urbanization, and Culture
Unit 5	United States and Canada

World Geography Semester Finals Review: December 12-14th
Semester Finals: December 15 and 16

SECOND SEMESTER

Unit 6	Western Europe
Unit 7	Eastern Europe and Russia
Unit 8	Southwest Asia and Northern Africa
Unit 9	Sub-Saharan Africa
Unit 10	South and Southeast Asia
Unit 11	East Asia
Unit 12	Oceania/Australia, United States, and Canada

Final Exams May 30-June 1

TUTORING SCHEDULE

Tutorials are available Tuesday & Thursday by appointment from 3:00-3:30, and tutorials are also available most mornings from 7:05-7:20AM.

AVAILABLE STUDENT SERVICES

The MHS library and Mansfield Public Library are both valuable available student services in terms of resources and computer access. If students need specific outside help in any way, he or she needs to talk to the instructor about these issues.

August 22, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please review the syllabus with your child, and have your child return it signed the next time they attend class. Thank you for your attention to this matter and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. The primary form of communication (easiest way) is email. Please make sure that you, the parent, have a valid email (that you frequently check) in the school's Skyward system. Additionally, I am always available for a conference or phone call if requested.

Sincerely,
Robin Curry, Lance Davis, Jakob Howe,
and Jason Speakes



I have reviewed and understand the World Geography syllabus.

Student Printed Name

PERIOD _____

X _____
Student Signature

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

X _____
Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____