



Geography: The Key to
a Better World

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Honors Geography for Life and Honors World Civilizations offers you the opportunity to learn about the world by surveying the world's cultural, physical, economic, political and historic geography combined with a study of the contributions of major cultures, civilizations and religions of the ancient and modern world. Emphasis is placed on acquiring basic geographic skills, developing writing skills, and applying these skills in the study of world regions and current global affairs. The course stresses man's stewardship to his environment, appreciation of cultural diversity, and conflict resolution. Students should develop a "geographic" perspective that will help them see meaning in the arrangement of things and apply a "global" perspective to life situations. Students will use Prentice Hall World Geography and History of Our World, GIS/GPS and other computer technology, as well as current news sources.

II. ATTENDANCE

On the A/B schedule, missing one day of class is like missing two periods of instruction. Tardies and lack of attendance not only effect the ability of students to learn, but will also be reflected in Citizenship and participation points (see VII and VIII). Students are expected to be in their seats with their appropriate materials when the bell rings. Tardies and unexcused absences will effect Citizenship/participation points based on the following:

1. One tardy is allowed each term. 2. Each additional tardy will result in loss of 10 participation points. 3. The participation points lost on the second tardy may be made up by spending 15 minutes before or after school in my room completing a tardy assignment. (NOTE: This is only for participation points—the tardy remains a tardy on attendance.) Points lost after the second tardy may NOT be made up. 4. Each sluff results in -40 points. NOTE: Missed work as a result of sluffing or unexcused tardies cannot be made up.

III. HOMEWORK

Generally, students should expect an out of class assignment for each day of instruction. This work will vary from reading, reviewing notes, writing, vocabulary, research, projects or other assignments. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the posted due date.

Each student will be given a late work slip at the beginning of a term. With a late work slip, a student may turn in a late assignment the next class period with no penalty. Additional late assignments may be turned in for 50% credit of corrected score. Incomplete late work will not be given credit. Late work slips will NOT be accepted on term projects. NOTE: Scores on claimed "No name" papers will be decreased by 10%.

I reserve the right to consider each student's concerns and will allow extra time if I feel the student has legitimate reasons for late work (i.e. long illness, pre-planned family vacations) and arrangements are made in advance of the due date. No late work will be accepted after completion of the unit in which the homework was assigned.

IV. MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS OR TESTS

When a student is absent on the day an assignment is given, s/he is given one additional class period to turn in the assignment for full credit. Students who miss two or more consecutive class periods must meet with me on the day of their return to class to arrange a make-up schedule. This does not apply to long term assignments or projects.

Make-up tests should be taken before or after school within 1 week of the test. Students should not expect to do make-up work in class.

V. eTIME

Students with incomplete assignments, or who want extra help should come to my room during eTime to get caught up or get help. However, eTime may not be enough time to get caught up if you need to take a test. If you are absent, you should find out what you missed as soon as possible rather than wait for eTime. You may come in before or after school any day in addition to eTime.

VI. EVALUATION

Class evaluation is intended to move students toward a mastery of the subject matter. Grades are based on the following categories:

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| 1. Daily assignments (papers with no name and period=no score) | 5. Tests |
| 2. Quizzes | 6. Honors enrichment |
| 3. Participation | 7. Notebook |
| 4. Term projects/papers | |

Extra Credit will be allowed with a maximum of 4% of total or one step on the grading scale (e.g. B- to B). NOTE: Extra Credit is not allowed unless all assignments are complete. Tests and major assignments will be returned to students within 2 weeks.

Final term grades are based on a cumulative point total and the following percentage scale. Percentages are calculated by dividing the total points earned by the total points possible.:

94-100% A 90-93 A- 86-89 B+ 83-86 B 80-83% B-

Students in an Honors class should not be earning any grade below a B-. Any student below a B- will need to attend a Parent/Student/Teacher conference to determine what action will best help the student meet the expectations of the class.

Students will correct the work of other students and have their work corrected and/or recorded by other students/student aides. This practice has an important educational purpose in that it allows students to review information and assess the validity of ideas that may be different than their own.

VII. CLASSROOM HABITS

1. All school rules including no food, drink or candy in class, no hats, no electronic games, cell phones, etc.
2. Be on time. Be in your seat when the bell rings.
3. Come to class prepared with book, notebook, pencil/pen. _____
4. Be a self starter. Don't wait to be told what to do. Follow written instructions at the beginning of class
5. Do your work. Use class time effectively. Be honest in your work.
6. Respect classmates, property and teachers and other cultures.

Students will be accountable for their own behavior--the consequences of each act is chosen along with the act. Consequences of inappropriate behavior will affect Citizenship/participation points.

VIII. PARTICIPATION

I believe in rewarding students for being in class and participating. Each student begins class with 5 participation points. The only way to lose those points is through tardies, unexcused absences, or disregarding classroom habits. Generally a 1-5 point deduction is made is for disregarding classroom habits (e.g. missing self-starts, inappropriate language, not doing work, etc.)

IX. CITIZENSHIP CREDIT

Citizenship credit is based on tardies, absences and behavior. The students participation points at the end of the term will determine the citizenship grade based on the following scale: O=100-90 S=89-70 N=69-60 U=59 or below. Cheating will receive a "0" on the assignment and an automatic "U" in Citizenship.

X. HONORS ENRICHMENT

In addition to regular class work and projects, Honors students are expected to complete an Honors Film Enrichment and/or Honors Technology Enrichment each term. Resources to complete the enrichment projects are available before and after school or eTime.

XI. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to keep track of their own grades on an assignment sheet and to keep a class notebook of assignments (including quizzes and tests), notes, and self-starts. The notebook should be a three ring binder with two or 3 tabs to keep papers in order. Notebooks are turned in at the end of each term. Although students will receive a grade printout for eTime, students should also be able to calculate their own grade at any time using the assignment sheet.

Students should have their own colored pencils. As a check to see if you are really reading this disclosure, students should initial on the line at the end of classroom habit 3.

With limited school supplies, we are able to provide each student with one copy of class materials. If materials are lost, misplaced etc. and an additional copy is needed, it will cost \$.05 for the replacement copy or students may go to the copy center to make their own copy. Assignments posted on the internet may be printed for free.

XII. I am available before and after school every day to help students. Don't be afraid to ask questions or to ask for extra help. Messages will be returned as soon as possible (E-mail: ande485@alpine.k12.ut.us). Students, parents or both may sign up for e-mail updates by returning the "E-mail Sign Up Sheet."

PLEASE SIGN BUT DO NOT REMOVE BOTTOM SECTION.

I have read through the disclosure and understand what is expected of me.

Student Signature

I have read through the disclosure and understand what is expected of my student.

Parent/Guardian