

# World Geography

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**Conference Period: 2A; 10:05 AM – 11:35 AM**

## **About World Geography**

The purpose of this course is to help you develop geographical skills that will enable you to better understand and appreciate the place where you live as well as places around the world. You will also learn about how your life is interconnected with the lives of people around the world and will discover that geography is about much more than knowing where places are. It is about understanding the fundamental importance of space and place for all aspects of our lives. We explore the major topics of human geography through detailed case studies that show how demographic, environmental, cultural, social, political, and economic processes shape the geography of the world. Moreover, the topics we explore in this class lead directly into topics studied in numerous other classes including sociology, economics, political science, history, civil engineering, ethnic studies, and gender studies among others.

## **Required materials**

Textbook, thin binder or folder with brackets, ruler, pen, compass, colored pencils, highlighter, Loose-leaf paper (lined and unlined), one black and white composition book;

## **Course Goals**

By the end of this course students will...

- Understand major concepts in human geography including place, space, scale, landscape, etc.
- Understand the geography of population, the environment, culture, identity, the economy, politics, agriculture, and of cities.
- Understand that human landscapes are not simply an inevitable product of nature but are planned, constructed, and contested by identifiable people working within historically and geographically specific social, cultural, political, and economic situations.
- Be able to interpret everyday landscapes and understand some of the spatial processes that help to structure them.
- Be able to participate knowledgeably in discussions with other people about world events and about the importance of geography for these events.
- Be able to identify what is geographical about a given issue discussed in the media.
- Be able to integrate knowledge about population, the environment, culture, economics, politics, and agriculture to understand specific places or types of places (cities for example).
- Develop a greater awareness of how their lives are interrelated with the lives of people in other places.

- Develop an improved appreciation for the places and landscapes encountered in everyday life.
- Understand the relevance of geography to their chosen vocation in life (whether they ultimately decide to major in geography or not.)
- Be able to write an essay in which they effectively support an argument with evidence.
- Develop strategies for studying and good study habits that will benefit them throughout the rest of their school career.
- Be able to read and critically interpret a wider range of writing on current events and world affairs than when they started the class.

### **Grading**

- Cycle Common Assessments = 20%
- Test and research paper/projects = 40%
- Quizzes/Essays = 30%
- Daily Activities/Participation/ Maps/Homework = 10%