

Classroom Instruction and Review: 80 hours	Grade Level: 9
UC/CSU/College: Meets A-G requirement	District Requirement: 1 Semester Soc Sci

Course Prerequisites: Course prerequisites are based on the State of California History/Social Science content standards grades K-8.

District Approved Textbook/Materials: *World Geography*, Glencoe/McGraw Hill, c2000.

Brief Course Description: This semester, the World Geography course will consist of an in-depth examination of the study of geography, with the geographic components revolving around the five fundamental themes of geography and the nationally recognized standards for geography. The major content standards utilize geographic skills (*reviewed and taught in the first unit/standard*) to examine various regions of the world. The emphasis of the course is on geography and climate and their impact on the development, history and government, culture and lifestyle, and contemporary society of a region.

Overall of Units of Instruction: This semester, the World Geography course will cover the following units/regions: Prerequisite Geography Skills, United States/Canada, Latin America, Europe/Eurasian Republics, and Southwest Asia (*Middle East*)/North Africa.

Grading: Students will receive both scholarship and citizenship grades for this class. It is important for students to realize that regular attendance and completing all work assigned ultimately affects *both* scholarship and citizenship grades.

Scholarship

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grades are divided into <i>weighted</i> categories in the grade book with each category worth a percentage of the total class grade. ▪ All work given in class is placed in one of these categories, allowing all students to maximize their varied talents. ▪ Assignments are weighted within each category based upon the point value of the assignment entered. ▪ Full credit is given only to work submitted when due, late work is marked down (<i>except legitimate absences</i>). 	Categories	
	15 %	Text / Class work
	10 %	Notes / Research
	15 %	Current Events
	20 %	Projects / Presentations
	10 %	Writing
	10 %	Quizzes
	10 %	Exams
10 %	Final Exam / EOCE	

- There are **no extra credit assignments** given in this class. Students are encouraged to do their best on all work assigned. The right is reserved by the instructor to award “extra points” on work or exams that demonstrates exceptional preparation and final results.

- ❑ The grade scale for this course may be found on the appropriate link on my website: <http://crhenson.com> . Grades and/or percentages **are not** rounded up on progress reports or report cards. (*For example: a grade average of 89.9% will be recorded as a B+*)
- ❑ Individual student's grades are posted (*using student ID numbers*) online, generally weekly, to monitor their progress in class. Students not having internet access at home, may access their online grades at school providing they have fulfilled the SUHSD requirements for internet use on campus. Grades will not be sent via email!
- ❑ Scholarship grades are cumulative throughout the semester. The final grade earned in class is therefore based on **all work submitted** and **all grades earned** throughout the semester, from the first assignment to the last grade entered in the grade book for the semester. It is therefore extremely important that students get off to a great start and maintain a steady effort throughout the whole course.

Citizenship

Based upon the following criteria, all of which are observable during the course of the semester, citizenship grades are earned by the students.

Be Responsible

Students are expected to bring needed supplies to class daily, to include but not limited to: their textbook, three-ring binder, paper, pens, and pencils. Students **will not be allowed out of class to acquire these items**. Students are expected to have homework assignments completed and submitted on time.

Be Respectful

Students are expected to behave in a manner conducive to the learning environment, follow all the class rules, be polite and courteous to the teacher and classmates, and be friendly and helpful.

Be Reliable

Students are expected to be to class on time daily (*unexcused tardies will lower grade*), attend regularly, makeup work missed during absences, and complete all work assigned.

Be Honest

Students are expected to complete their own work. In consideration to Hilltop High's policy governing honesty, there will be **no tolerance** for cheating, copying from others, allowing others to copy individual work, plagiarizing sources, etc. This includes all work, projects, quizzes, and exams given in class.

- ❑ **All electronic devices** are to be turned off and placed in backpacks **before** coming into the class or the item **will be confiscated by the teacher** according to school policy. Students will not be excused from being marked tardy because of taking care of this issue. The items include but are not limited to: cell phones, CD players, GameBoys, etc. First

offense, the item will be confiscated and the student may pick it up after school that day in the teacher's room. If it happens again (*during the entire semester*), the item will be confiscated and sent to the Assistant Principal's office. **Electronic devices are never accessible for student use during class even if a student has finished their work.**

- Citizenship grades are cumulative throughout each grading period. The final citizenship grade earned in class is however, based on **a student's overall adherence to class rules and the items mentioned above**. It is therefore extremely important that students get off to a great start and maintain a steady effort throughout the whole course.

Class Rules:

In addition to school wide rules, and the information mentioned above, the following items **apply to students** in this class at all times:

- **Always** be in their assigned seat when the tardy bell rings.
- **Always** sit in their assigned seats (*students may not randomly choose to move*).
- **Always** be responsible for your own actions in class.
- **Never** have food or drinks in the room (*including after nutrition break*).
- **Never** talk when anyone else is addressing the class (*whether it's the teacher, a guest speaker, or another student*).
- **Never** leave the classroom without the teacher's permission.

Students failing to consistently follow these rules may lose class privileges (*attending assemblies, field trips, etc.*) or receive lowered citizenship grades.

Web Page:

Much useful, relevant, and informative information is available on my website. Important course related links, monthly calendars listing assignments and lessons for class, grades, practice quizzes and exams, project packets, parental help pages, and much more. It is updated regularly, so bookmark it now and refer to it often. <http://crhenson.com>. For confidentially reasons, **no student names or photos will ever be included on the website**.

How to Contact Me:

The best way to get in touch is through email. You may reach me through the email link on my website or directly at the address listed below. When emailing please be advised that:

- It is checked regularly, but obviously it will be answered (*if deemed necessary*) sometime that day or the next day, depending upon my schedule.
- No information deemed confidential will be sent, including current grades, etc.
- Since email names often are "creative", please make sure that you give me the following info – your name (*first and last*), student's name (*first and last*), course, period number, and a brief description of the concern.

My scheduled preparation period is Period 2 and I'm usually available for conferencing purposes during the last fifteen to twenty minutes of the period. Please arrange any personal conferences through the office if necessary. Before setting up appointments, refer to the school calendar because a special bell schedule might be in effect, thereby shifting the time Period 2 normally meets.

General Information:

- ❑ Students are expected to keep all returned work in their binders, throughout the semester. This course syllabus is to be in the binder at all times. (*If needed, a copy may be downloaded from my website*).
- ❑ Reading magazines (*unless related to a current event assignment*), coursework from another class, putting on makeup, etc. are not expected to be done at anytime during this class.
- ❑ The attached colored sheet, is to be completed and returned to me no later than _____ signed by your parent or guardian. Failure to meet the deadline will result in a lowered citizenship grade. All forms **MUST BE RETURNED!**