



WORLD STUDIES

Mr. Cooper

Course Syllabus

Students are required to pass this class in order to graduate from high school.

This is a one semester course designed to develop an understanding of the character of various regions as influenced by environmental, historical, and cultural forces. Emphasis is given to thinking geographically in the study of interrelationship between people and places.

Course Objectives - Students will:

Develop an awareness of major problems and problem areas of the world and why they exist (political, poverty, pollution, resources, population, and cultural conflict)

Develop the ability to be independent thinkers who can solve real-life problems and make connection between their studies and their world.

Develop communication and questioning skills.

Develop effective reading and study skills that will be needed in future academic undertakings.

Acquire, evaluate, organize and present information to complete long term projects.

Display responsibility, sociability and self-management.

Work effectively with others to produce products.

The class will include lectures, readings, videos, written homework, in-class work, group projects, quizzes, current events, and formal essays. The student will be responsible for ALL information discussed and being prepared for quizzes over material covered. Genuine engagement will be expected from each student. Critical thinking skills will be an integral part of this course.

Lecture themes will include:

- a) physical geography environment
- b) development issues
- c) population
- d) cultural groups/values
- e) urbanization

GRADING SCALE:

A	92.5-100
A-	89.5-92.4
B+	85.5-89.4
B	81.5-85.4
B-	78.5-81.4
C+	75.5-78.4
C	71.5-75.4
C-	68.5-71.4
D+	64.5-68.4
D	59.5-64.4
F	BELOW 59.5

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

MAKE HAY, WHILE THE SUN SHINES. Late assignments will be given a score of zero. This will be indicated by a symbol on your progress report. Missing assignments will be indicated by a "mi" on your progress report. All assignments are due on the day they are due. There are always circumstances that will be taken into consideration, such as unexpected illness of family emergency.

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW. Missing assignments will result in lower grades. It is your responsibility to complete and turn in your assignments. Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. A student that misses a test must immediately schedule a make-up test upon their arrival back to school. Quizzes are spontaneous activities and may not be made up as such. Students will be given an alternative assignment.

THE MORE YOU ROLL OVER A DEAD CAT THE FLATTER IT GETS. It is important that you review your notes for at least 20 minutes each day. Your notes are essentially your test. Classroom assignments repeat important aspects of the unit you are studying. Therefore, it is worthwhile to make time to complete them.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE HORSE BEING BLIND LOAD THE WAGON. You have an important job, learning! Do your job and let everyone else do theirs. Establish good habits now and it will pay dividends in the future.

MAKE SURE YOU GET ALL THE HAY IN THE BARN BEFORE YOU CLOSE THE DOOR. It's the little things that make the big things possible. A prime example is to make sure you have a proper heading on all items submitted.

Agenda Book Check (ABC)-Students are required to keep an accurate and updated record of assignments and due dates. It is further required that students get their parent/guardian to sign off on their agenda book.

* The ABC is worth 50 points per week and can not be made up. The ABC will be done at the end of each week.

CLASS ROOM RULES:

1. Be in your seat before the bell begins to ring.
2. Be prepared: Bring all necessary materials to class.
3. Follow directions the first time given.
4. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized, before speaking.
5. Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

A 3 ring binder with dividers dedicated to the world studies class.
Pen—blue or black only
Sharpie (black)
Pencils-standard #2/mechanical and color pencils
Note cards
Paper

CURRENT EVENTS:

The purpose of studying Current Events is to broaden the scope of the Social Studies course to encompass everyday concepts necessary to understand the world around us. By making connections with what we study about the past to what is happening today, we are able to apply all our acquired knowledge and accumulated experiences, thus enhancing our understanding of today's world.

Information for Current Events must originate from print media (magazines, newspapers, journals, etc.) or Internet sources - approved by teacher.

Articles are to be explanatory and not short announcements or a short statement that an event occurred. Crime, sports and entertainment are only acceptable if a global issue is involved.

Articles must be in English (unless the teacher has given prior approval otherwise). Articles should not be more than fourteen (14) days old prior to the date the assignment is due. 1 article will be due every other week.

The news articles should be mounted on an 8.5 X11 sheet of paper with the answers to two questions) in the student's own words on the same sheet(s) of paper. On the top lines of the first sheet, the student is to write a bibliographic entry for the article.

Questions:

1. Describe how the article relates to: a) physical geography environment; b) development issues; c) population; d) cultural groups/values; e) urbanization
2. Describe how the article relates to: a) Cause and Effect, b) Comparison, c) Influence.

The Current Events will be discussed on the day due. Each student will be prepared to describe his or her articles to the entire class. Students are expected to take notes during the discussion. There will be quizzes over current events. Your written component serves as a demonstration of your understanding of the article.

Do not write a summary of the article!