GNHS Ltrhd Top.tif

**Mission Statement**

Students engage in challenging tasks in which they draw upon personal strengths and diverse experiences, create meaningful connections, and develop innovative problem-solving skills. With the confidence and character gained from these experiences, students pursue their individual passions and participate responsibly and effectively in their communities.

**Course Name:** Geography

**Teacher name:** Scott Ewen

**Contact information:** Office Email: sewen@d127.org Office Phone Number: (847) 986-3100, ext. 5598

Office Location: 250

**Office Hours:** 3 and 6 by appt.

**Materials Needed:** These materials are required **EVERY** day of class.

1. A three-ring binder (at least 1”) that is used only for this course.

2. Dividers for your three-ring binder

3. A writing utensil (**blue or black** pen or pencil with an eraser)

4. Loose leaf notebook paper in an abundant amount (at least 40 sheets)

5. Textbook: *World Geography* by McDougal Littell. A text will be assigned to each student on the first day of class to use inside and outside the classroom. **These texts are relatively new, therefore they should be returned in almost the same condition as issued, minus normal wear and tear!**

You will receive handouts, quizzes/tests, and take notes, which can be neatly organized and placed into your binder. These binders will be graded periodically and are part of your participation points. **If your work cannot be read, then it will not be graded!**  A set of colored pencils are also highly recommended for this class. The more organized and prepared you are, the better you will be able to learn.

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**Course Description:** Geography is a one-semester elective course for students interested in expanding their knowledge of the social sciences and further developing their critical-thinking and interpretative skills through geographic study. Regional, physical, and cultural geography will be explored. Students will first receive a solid foundation in map skills using a hands-on approach. In addition, the five themes of geography, chart and graphic interpretation are also introduced. The course focuses on the geographic aspects of selected world region. A variety of learning methods are used including discussions, projects, presentations, and group activities.

**Grading Practices:** The semester grade is calculated as follows:

Tests/Quizzes = 30%

Projects/other assessment = 25%

Homework/Participation = 25%

Final Exam = 20%

Parents and students of Grayslake Community High School District 127 will now be able to view student progress through PowerSchool, the District’s student information system. PowerSchool is used to schedule, take attendance, store grades, produce transcripts, report cards, and more. PowerSchool “brings together teacher, students, parents, and administrators” in an easily used web-based data system.

For more information please go to [www.d127.org](http://www.d127.org).

All assignments are due by the assigned date. Late penalties may be assessed by the teacher as appropriate. General guidance is that 70% of the points may be earned if an assignment is submitted one day late and 60% of the points may be earned if handed in 2 days or more late, up until the end of the unit. It is possible that no points will be given if an assignment is handed in beyond the end of the unit. Please talk to me if you were unable to complete an assignment by the due date to determine the next steps. Students are also expected to meet with the teacher to get make-up work from absences.

**Participation:** Participation is very important to this class. There will be discussions where points are assigned based on your involvement. Also, if you don’t come to class prepared (homework done, reading done, etc.) you will be at a disadvantage when trying to participate in group activities/discussions. Participation is a great way to help your grade everyday!!

# Grading Scale

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Percentage | Grade | Percentage | Grade |
| 98 – 100% | A+ | 78 – 79% | C+ |
| 93 – 97% | A | 73 – 77% | C |
| 90 – 92% | A- | 70 – 72% | C- |
| 88 – 89% | B+ | 68 – 69% | D+ |
| 83 – 87% | B | 63 – 67% | D |
| 80 – 82% | B- | 60 – 62% | D- |
|  |  | 0 – 59% | F |

Course Topics

**Unit 1**  Introduction to Geography (Cultural and Physical)

**Unit 2**  United States and Canada

**Unit 3** East Asia

**Unit 4** Latin America

**Unit 5** Europe

**Unit 6** Africa

**Unit 7** SE Asia and Oceania