

# World Geography and Cultures Sample Syllabus

Taught by Nate Gilbert



In this class students will learn about the physical world, human interactions with their surroundings, and systems that humans have developed in various regions. Of course, time will be allotted to the study and understanding of maps (one of a geographer's primary tools). The course is centered around the six essential elements of the National Geographic Standards that were created by the National Council for Geographic Education. These elements are 1) The World in Spatial Terms, 2) Places and Regions, 3) Physical Systems, 4) Human Systems, 5) Environment and Society, and 6) The Uses of Geography. So, as we move from region to region, students will gain an understanding of key physical characteristics (like landforms and climate) while also exploring the cultures and histories that make people groups unique.

## Zoom Live Class:

Students should use video and audio during the live class. Parents may request an exception to this requirement. The chat box does work for communication, but there is sometimes a delay before I see what is typed. Please keep chat conversations related to class and try not to interrupt the flow of class. Please respect others' opinions and give others a chance to talk about a topic. The recording is posted after each class for review. I recommend that students take notes during the live class.

## Late Work Policy:

Students are allowed to submit work in any order they choose, provided it is completed by the due date. Late assignments will incur a 10% scoring reduction per day late. Assignments over

one week late are NOT accepted or graded, and will be marked as zero. Late assignments may receive less feedback. Any request for an exception must be made prior to the due date and have the support of a parent.

#### Quizzes:

The weekly quiz is designed to test your knowledge of the class information discussed during the live class presentation. The quiz is timed and may not be taken with any outside assistance (including notes, web searches, tips from friends, etc.).

#### Assignments:

Regular assignments may include completing an online activity, working on map reading skills, or reading an article/watching a video about another culture. Students should respond in complete sentences and demonstrate supportive reasoning for their answers. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas and statements of another as if they are one's own without crediting the original source. When students use someone else's words or ideas, they must credit the source. Students should have access to online maps or an atlas, such as the Atlas of World Geography by Rand McNally (ISBN:0528017896).

#### Participation/Professionalism:

Students should engage in class discussions, use video during class, and pay attention during class. If students can't attend the live class, they should still communicate with the class in the online discussion forum and with the teacher.

#### Note to Parents About Internet Usage:

At times I will direct the students to a website for an assignment or activity. I have tried to be careful when selecting websites to avoid inappropriate content. Parents should also monitor their child's internet usage and employ appropriate internet filters.