

**Course Title: World Geography (2013-2014)**

**TEACHER: Ms. Kirst**

**Course Description:** This course explores the interrelationship of the world's physical and human geography. Emphasis is placed on studying how this interrelationship between physical and human geography across the globe has shaped different regions' histories and cultures up to the present day. In order to make clear the link between physical geographic features and human development, five fundamental themes will be used to focus exploration of geography in this course: location, place, human-environmental interaction, movement and region. Critical skills including map reading, learning to evaluate charts and statistics, comprehensive reading, reflective writing, and analytical research skills are stressed.

**Course Objectives/Student Outcomes:** It is hoped that students will:

1. Identify and connect concepts of physical and human geography
2. Demonstrate the ability to read and analyze maps
3. Locate and describe major countries and land forms
4. Identify and use various types of maps
5. Understand how geography affects regional conflict and international relations

**Course Requirements/Required Materials:** These required materials are expected to be brought to class everyday- no exceptions.

1. Textbook: Arreola, Deal, Petersen, Sanders. *GEOGRAPHY*. Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt. I-book.
2. Two inch loose leaf binder with dividers
3. Pens and Pencils
4. Colored Pencils
5. I-pad

**This course will cover the following topics:**

1. Physical geography
2. Human geography
3. Climates and ecosystems
4. Geographic resources and land usage
5. Select regions and continents including:
  - a. Latin America
  - b. Europe
  - c. Africa
  - d. Southwest Asia
  - e. South Asia
  - f. East Asia

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS: World History (2013-2014)

TEACHER: Ms. Kirst

**TEACHER AVAILABILITY:** Messages can be left for the teacher at extension 277. The teacher can also be reached by email at [akirst@saintviator.com](mailto:akirst@saintviator.com). Please note that I only access email when inside the building. Any email communication from a student must be administered through their school provided Gmail account and must be carbon copied to their parents—*emails from students in any other manner will not receive a response*. It is best for students to make arrangements one day in advance to set up a mutually convenient time either before or after school if they need to meet outside class. Additionally, a website with class information, assignment sheets and study guides can be found at <http://www.quia.com/pages/akirsthome.html>

### CLASSROOM POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. Bring required materials to class each day.
2. Students will sit down in assigned seats at the beginning of class. Any student not in their assigned seat at the bell will be considered tardy.
3. Students entering class after the bell are required to have a pass from the Dean of Students. Three unexcused tardies will result in a detention.
4. Students are expected to take notes and participate in class activities each day.
5. Students are expected to respect each other and the teacher.
6. Eating, drinking, gum chewing, applying make-up, using cell phones or any disruptive devices is not allowed.
7. iPad usage in class needs to be for academic reasons; the school's iPad policy will be followed.
8. Students must be in dress code when entering the classroom.
9. **Students are to complete their own work unless told they may work together on a specific assignment.** Additionally, assignments are to be in the students own words. Students caught cheating (using another's work, supplying work to another, working with a student when not specifically allowed, plagiarizing, improperly citing sources, **handing in textbook notes found on the internet**, etc.) will receive a grade of failure on the assignment and the school's academic integrity process will be followed.
10. All other school rules apply in this class.

### HOMEWORK POLICY

1. Unless specified otherwise, homework assignments are to be handwritten.
2. Pop quizzes may be given on the homework. Students may refer only to their own homework for assistance when taking quizzes
3. **Homework assignments will not be accepted late except due to an absence.** (If for any reason a student does not have their homework due to extenuating circumstances and does not wish to be penalized, they must see the teacher before school in room 139 to discuss the matter.)
  - If absent when work was collected, write absent at the top of the page.
  - It is your responsibility to turn in missing work after an absence on your first day back.
  - **Written homework is completed only when placed between the three rings of binder and this must be done before arriving in classroom.**
4. Major projects must be submitted electronically to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) and submitted to the teacher in hard copy. You will receive more information on this at a later date.
5. Major projects such as binder checks will be accepted late, but will lose 10% for each day they are late. For example the highest grade a project turned in one day late can receive is a 90%, two days late 80%, three days late 70%, etc.
6. Written homework will be collected at the beginning of class.
7. Any assignment turned in without a name on it or in pencil (with the exception of maps) will lose a point.

## EVALUATION/GRADES

1. The school's grading scale will be used and percentages will be determined from a running total of points.
2. Students must keep a binder containing all of their worksheets and projects. Periodic binder checks will be made and a grade given on the binder.
3. Test dates will be announced at the beginning of each chapter; therefore it is expected that students begin to prepare for tests in advance.
4. Each quarter counts as 40% of the student's semester grade. The semester exam will count for 20% of the semester grade.

## ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

1. Regular attendance is expected.
2. Students are responsible for making up all missed work. (See number 4 under Homework Policy)
3. Students are to see the teacher **before class** on the day of their return in order to schedule makeup work and tests. Approaching the teacher during class regarding makeup work is not acceptable.
4. Assignments are given at the beginning of each chapter and can also be found on the teacher's website. All work assigned prior to a student's absence is due the day the student returns to class. **Upon their return, students must keep up with the daily assignments in addition to completing make-up work.**
5. Make up tests will be offered in the testing center and are to be taken within the **first two days** of the student's return from an absence. These tests may contain information in a different format than the original test.
6. Work missed due to an extended absence will be dealt with on an individual basis. Arrangements must be made to meet with the teacher the day the student returns to school.
7. The teacher must be notified in advance of student field trips, in-school meetings/testing, doctor's appointments, retreats, athletic absences, vacations, etc. **If the student is in the building at all during the school day any homework or projects that are due that day are expected to be turned in. Students may drop off the work in the History Office room 133 or in the Deans' Office. In addition, if the student is in the building but missing the class period and a test/quiz is being given it is expected that the student takes the test prior to their dismissal from school—arrangements must be made with Ms. Kirst ahead of time.** Otherwise, homework, papers, tests, quizzes that were assigned ahead of time are due the day he or she returns.

*Nota Bene:* The teacher reserves the right to amend these expectations throughout the year/semester as needed.