

World Geography  
Mr. Boren, Ayala High School  
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Welcome 2020 Ayala Bulldogs,

Course Description:

World Geography is a study of the distribution and interaction of the physical and human features on Earth. Students are introduced to various cultural practices of inhabitants of the countries we study. Students will practice collaborating and communicating with each other while bringing creativity and critical thinking to the process. Students will have an opportunity to engage in both individual and group work. Public speaking opportunities are integrated into our course.

Students will engage in various writing activities throughout the course. Almost everyday students will write a response to a statement or question posed at the beginning of class. We refer to this activity as a Quick Write. In addition, students will keep an ongoing description of the academic language of Geography entitled Vocabulary. Moreover, students will create with the help of the teacher, classmates, and the textbook, Geography Notes. The Quick Writes, Vocabulary and Geography Notes should be kept in a digital folder with specific files designated for Quick Writes, Vocabulary, Geography Notes. We use Google Classroom as a way to submit, grade and return assignments. It is important that students have access to their notes, vocabulary and textbook every day.

Grading Policy:

A combination of daily activities, quizzes, tests, projects, homework, class participation and the culminating activity will account for a students' academic grade. You will earn a ZERO grade for every assignment you fail to turn in. Your semester grade depends on how well you perform on the Final Project. Students will be assessed separately on work habits and citizenship. The following represents my academic grading policy:

Grade	Percent	Explanation
A	90-100%	Superior - high proficiency and deep understanding
B	80-89%	Good - above average proficiency, working understanding
C	70-79%	Fair – completes assignments, minimum understanding
D	60-69%	Poor – does not demonstrate competence or understanding
F	Below 60%	Failure – Incomplete assignments substantial lack of understanding

Academic Dishonesty:

Students committing acts of academic dishonesty disrespect themselves and their classmates. **Cheating will not be tolerated.** Copying from another student on a quiz, or turning in another students' work for credit will result in a "0" grade on the assignment in question. All students involved will be counseled. If a student commits a second act of academic dishonesty the matter will be referred to the Assistant Principal.

Absences/Make-Up Work Policy:

For every day you are absent, you are allowed an extra day to complete your work. You can email me your work if you are absent on the due date or submit your work when you return from your absence. **You** are responsible for obtaining all materials, handouts and homework assignments missed during your absence. Classmates should work together and provide each other with missed materials. Find someone in class you can communicate with. If you know you're going to be absent see me during office hours and I will provide you material ahead of your absence and you will still have extra time to complete your work. I am here to help you. Effort breeds success.

Late Work Policy: Late work will be accepted if technology issues cause your work to be late.

Final Project:

Students will have multiple opportunities to complete the final project during class time.  
**Student will provide copies of their work to each member of their group. Failure to do your part on the final project will earn a ZERO on the final.**

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Classroom Supplies that lead to success:

- A digital folder that contains all of your work for this class .
- Files for Notes, Vocabulary, Quick writes, projects
- A separate file for the final project
- A daily planner of your choosing or using the calendar function with entries for World Geography

**Classroom Management and Expected Classroom Behavior**

Each student is responsible to complete his or her assignments. Class time will be used effectively and student work completed in class. Students should come to class prepared to complete the assigned class work and projects. Good behavior is critical for student success. I will help students individually and in small groups. Excellent behavior and self-control are required in order to experience an enjoyable, well-run class. Students are **not allowed** to use their cell phones in class unless prompted to by Mr. Boren. Students who engage in unproductive behavior will earn a zero in participation for that day. Daily participation is a component of a students' final grade.

Classroom Rules:

- Class begins and ends at the designated time.
- Be prepared for class, seated in your chosen area with the camera turned on.
- Be respectful, treating each other with courtesy.
- Raise your hand to speak, or enter your question in the chat, do not speak over another student.
- No hats, hoodless, or active cell phones
- No profanity, inappropriate comments or language
- No disruptive/rude behavior
- Talking and/or using a cell phone during exams/quizzes, earns a Zero grade on the exam/quiz.

Discipline Policy:

If a student fails to follow classroom rules Mr. Boren will counsel them. A student who continues to violate class rules will be subject to:

1. Parent contacted. Denial of certain privileges granted to other students.
2. Student referred to Vice Principal. Students' counselor notified.
3. Conference with parents to secure their assistance in improving the quality of performance and/or behavior of students.
4. A student/teacher/parent behavior contract.
5. Students' permanent record affected.

If improper conduct warrants, students will be referred directly to the Vice Principal of discipline.

Note: At any time Administration could determine that Student conduct justifies suspension.

Tardy Policy: See the Ayala Handbook

Dress Code Policy: No Pajamas. Clothing appropriate for school. See the Ayala Handbook.

**Supplemental Material Policy**

Students will be exposed to various materials outside of our textbook. Video clips are a significant part of our course. Video clips are based on components of our World Geography Course. On occasion, modern films/media are incorporated into our curriculum to demonstrate a Geography principal. For example, a clip from "*Pirates of the Caribbean*" can be used to demonstrate Absolute Reference using longitude and latitude lines as well as to demonstrate Relative Reference.

**Late Work due to technology issues will be accepted.**

**Cell Phones:**

1. Interacting in any manner with your cell phone during a class period earns a **Zero** in participation for that day.
2. The second time you interact with your cell phone during the semester:
  - A. You earn a **Zero** for participation for the day,
  - B. I will direct you to place your cell phone in camera view for the remainder of the class period.
3. The third time you interact with your cell phone during the semester:
  - A. You earn a **Zero** for participation for that day.
  - B. Your parents/guardians are contacted for a conference.
4. The fourth time plus will result in a repeat of #3.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period# \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and understand all rules, policies and statements contained on all 3 pages of this document including the Supplemental material policy and Cell Phone policy.** The following information will be available on a google form later in the week as an assignment:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian cell phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Best contact phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email Address

**NOTE: Mr. Boren can alter or modify this syllabus at any time without notice.**