

# COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 94

## SHELTERED WORLD GEOGRAPHY COURSE SYLLABUS

**Mr. Salgado (2021 – 2022)**

**OVERVIEW:** World Geography is a one-year course ***required*** for all freshman students. The course begins with an introduction to geography with all the tools and basic information for the course. It will be followed by the exploration of the most important world regions. The study of each world region will begin with a general geographical overview of its physical geography, followed by a discussion and activities of selected issues pertaining to each particular region. The development and improvement of reading, writing, and research skills will be emphasized as well. The course revolves around a central or *focus* question that will serve as the guide for the entire course. Each unit is also guided by a focus question relative to a particular topic.

**COURSE FOCUS QUESTION:** *How do physical, cultural, political, and economic forces shape the global community?*

### **FIRST SEMESTER**

**UNIT I: Introduction** - Geography foundation and tools of the trade

**Focus Question:** *What is World Geography?*

#### **Topics:**

- Technology introduction and class building activities
- Planet Earth and Maps
- Physical systems
- Culture
- Types of Government and Economic Systems

**UNIT II: East Asia** – Population Density and Government Comparison

**Focus Question:** *What controls people?*

#### **Topics:**

- Asia map identification – Mapping Lab

- Population density (relationship to physical geography): Japan
- Comparative political systems (democracy vs. totalitarianism).
- Regional religions: Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism.
- Human rights issues impact on Asian Society (human trafficking, censorship, etc.).
- Case study: North Korea vs. South Korea.
- China: historical & cultural overview (“Overpopulation” overview).
- Mini presentation/Assessment.

### **UNIT III: Latin America – Migration**

**Focus Question:** *How do people’s choices affect others?*

**Topics:**

- Latin America thematic maps
- Physical geography
- Spatial inequality (case study: Mexico City)
- Migration: push and pull factors
- Latest current events
- Contemporary issues: NAFTA II, Mexico’s new government, Covid-19 challenges

### **UNIT IV: Europe – European Union**

**Focus Question:** *What compels countries to cooperate?*

**Topics:**

- Mapping Labs
- EU Parliament Simulation – (research project on current issues and debates)

**1st Semester Final Exam - exam covers all topics and skills from 1<sup>st</sup> semester**

## **SECOND SEMESTER**

**UNIT I: Human Rights** – Introduction of United Nations Human Rights Summit

**Possible Topics:**

- Human trafficking and slavery
- Access to basic education and health care
- Immigrant rights
- Sweatshops & child labor

**UNIT II: Africa** – Struggles for Development

**Focus Question:** *How do people break away from their past?*

**Topics:** Mapping labs, Colonial history, South Africa: from Apartheid to a new democracy (Nelson Mandela).

**UNIT III: Middle East (South West Asia) – Conflict & Resolution**

**Focus Question:** *What causes conflict?*

**Topics:**

- Place location and physical geography overview
- Oil and OPEC (supply and demand)
- U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
- The Syrian civil war
- Iran's nuclear proliferation and recent negotiations
- Arab-Israeli conflict (basic background and development to the present day)
- Terrorism (Al-Qaeda, ISIS)
- Three major monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam (the five pillars of faith)
- The new oil-boom economies (United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain).

## **UNIT IV: South & Central Asia – Change and Tradition**

**Focus Question:** *How can history and progress meet?*

### **Topics:**

- Place location and physical geography overview: Himalayas, Ganges River, monsoon.
- Cultural/religious influences: Hinduism, Buddhism, the caste system.
- British imperialism vs. Gandhi's struggle for independence.
- Current issues: overpopulation, poverty, spatial inequality, social discrimination.
- Outsourcing (impact on globalization).
- India/Pakistan rivalry: Kashmir and the nuclear proliferation.

## **UNIT V: U. N. Human Rights Summit**

**Focus Question:** *How do people suffer when their human rights are denied; and how might these abuses be improved?*

**Project Description:** After researching selected human rights topics, students will hold a United Nations Human Rights Summit simulation presented in the school's auditorium.

### **2nd Semester Final Exam - exam covers all topics and skills from 2<sup>nd</sup> semester**

### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

Students are expected to follow the established rules in class or online at all times. In order to *succeed* in this class students must come prepared **every day** with their completed assignments, pen or pencil, binder, and notebook. Attendance and punctuality will be two important components of the total academic performance as well as the final grade. Remember, *this is a required course for high school graduation.*

### **GRADED ITEMS:**

1. **Unit Exams & Quizzes**
2. **In-class Assignments**
3. **Participation (including attendance)**
4. **Projects/Presentations**
5. **Final Exam**

## **GRADING SCALE:**

**A:** 100 – 90%;

**B:** 89 – 80%;

**C:** 79 – 70%;

**D:** 69 – 60%;

**F:** 59 – 0%.

## **RESOURCES:**

1. **E-textbook:** Geography Alive! Regions and People. TCI. (2016) (Available online: [https://student.teachtci.com/student/sign\\_in](https://student.teachtci.com/student/sign_in))
2. **Atlas book**
3. **Google Classroom:** materials will be posted on a regular basis as the course progresses
4. **Various applications** that will be utilized during the course (Kahoot, EdPuzzle, Classkick, etc.)
5. **PowerSchool website (for parents and students):** [ps.d94.org/public](https://ps.d94.org/public). (Please check your student's grades for this class at least once a week, preferable on weekends. Grades are updates most every Friday evening)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

You may contact Mr. Salgado by any of the following:

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