

# EL WORLD GEOGRAPHY 2025-2026

## Contact Information

Instructor: Mrs. Samm Melbye

New Email: [SJMELBYE@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:SJMELBYE@west-fargo.k12.nd.us)

Office: 106G (EL Office) Available: 2.3B

Social Studies Study Tables: 3A – Behind Library/ G Hallway

Classrooms: 1A - 112C; 2.3A, 1B – 107C, 3B, 4B – 101 G-B

## Class Materials

- iPad – Charged
- Writing Utensil (pencil/pen)
- Folder

## Course Objectives

- Students will understand **location** by using and creating different types of maps.
- Students will understand **place** by being able to describe their physical and human features.
- Students will understand **interactions** that cultures and societies have with their **environment**.
- Students will understand how people, ideas, and goods **move** between places.
- Students will understand the differences and similarities of **regions** around the world.

## **5 Major Themes of Geography**

- Location
- Place
- Human-Environment Interaction
- Movement
- Region

## **Continents Covered**

- North America
- South America
- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Australia/Oceania
- Antarctica

## Classroom Expectations

- **Be Responsible!**
  - Come to class on time, with the right materials, and in your seat by the bell. Fill out your planner.
  - When you come to class late, do not make a scene or interrupt the learning. 5 unexcused tardies will result in a UV, which receives detention.
  - iPads are not to be used to watch YouTube videos and/or play games during class. You can do this outside of class time.
  - Have good study habits such as reviewing material outside of class time, asking questions, and minimizing procrastination.
  - Attend WIN sessions and/or email the instructor when you need assistance.
- **Be Respectful!**
  - Respect each other's ideas, space, and belongings. Respect your instructor, classmates, and yourself!
  - The words we use are powerful. We must choose them wisely and make sure they are not used to put someone down or degrading the classroom environment.
  - The instructor oversees dismissing you. Your instructor will give you time to pack up your belongings and materials. Make sure to clean the space around you before you leave. Stay by your seat until you are dismissed. You do not need to wait by the door.

- **Be Ready to Learn!**
  - Read the daily agenda on the board and on Schoology.
  - Utilize your class time to complete work when you are given work time.
  - Complete assignments on time, prepare for quizzes and tests in and outside of class, and do your very best.
  
- **Language Expectations:** Students in my room are fortunate to speak other language(s) other than English. Since students in my classroom represent a variety of languages, it is important that we use a language that everyone is able to understand. During our class time, I expect that students speak English. Before school, between classes, during lunchtime, and after school, you can speak whatever language you would like. Our class time is meant to increase our understanding of English and help students develop language skills that will help them be successful.
  
- **Participation Expectations:** Students are expected to participate in all activities that are happening in class. Students are expected to give everything their best try even if it is hard.
  - **IXLs:** IXLs are used as practice on different topics that are being taught in class. Students are expected to complete IXLs without the use of classroom materials or the internet.
  
- **Follow School and District Policies!**
  - **Cellphones:** Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, WFHS rules regarding personal device usage (cell phone, smartwatch, personal laptop, etc.) will be as follows:
    - Cell phones, smart watches, and all other personal devices that can send and receive messages are OUT-OF-SIGHT and OUT-OF-USE from 8:25am until 3:35pm.
    - Devices CANNOT be kept on your person (in a pocket, etc.). They must, at a bare minimum, be kept in a CLOSED backpack pocket. Devices can also be left in your car, at home, etc.
    - Devices CANNOT be utilized or checked during passing times, lunch time, or Open Campus if you choose to remain on campus.
    - If you leave the classroom to visit the nurse, go to the bathroom, etc., your backpack (with your phone inside) STAYS IN THE CLASSROOM. '
    - Consequences are as follows:
      - **First Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the student at the end of the student's day
      - **Second Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day
      - **Third Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, behavior plan assigned to the student
      - **Fourth Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, 1 day ISS
      - **Fifth Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, 1 day OSS
      - **Sixth Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, transition to Virtual Program for the at least the remainder of the semester

- **iPads:** iPads are the property of WFPS. This is a reminder that abusing iPad privileges could result in the loss of the iPad. If you are not allowed to use your iPad because you were abusing the privilege, you will be given paper assignments moving forward.
- **Food and Beverages:** All drinks must have a spill-proof lid. Do not make a mess! Do not let your drink distract you from class or this privilege will be revoked. The only food allowed is teacher-provided.
- **Hall Passes:** Students will not be able to leave the class during direct instruction. If students need to use the restroom during worktime, they will make a pass and wait for it to be approved. Students cannot take their backpacks with them. Other passes will be approved by instructor discretion. Students will not be allowed to leave during the first 15 minutes or that last 15 minutes of class.
- **Tardiness:** A tardy is any situation in which you arrive at class late or unprepared. 5 unexcused tardies will result in a UV, which receives detention.

### Academic Policies

- **Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is wrong. This means you should not copy someone else's work or ideas and say they are yours. Show the same respect you would want for your own hard work. Do not copy and paste sentences from the internet, a textbook, or any other source. You must use your own words (this is called *paraphrasing*) or give credit to the source (this is called (*citing*)). Copying from another student or letting someone copy from you is cheating. This will result in zero points for both students. This also includes using AI, like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, etc. If you are found to have cheated, your principal will be contacted. If the cheating continues, contact will be made with your guardians.
- **Absences:** If you miss class for any reason, you need to check Schoology for any missed assignments. Paper assignments will be able to be picked up in the extra copies bin on the cart. If you know of an upcoming absence, please inform the instructor well in advance so we can make a plan to keep up with the work. It is best to send an email, and we can connect during class, during WIN sessions, or before/after school.

***NOTE: I understand that things happen in life that we cannot control and that they can mess up our routines or plans. If you have an "uncontrollable situation" at any time, please come and see me outside of class or communicate via email. The sooner you talk to me, the better. Just remember, if it becomes a habit, I will be less understanding.***

- **Late Work:** All late work needs to be turned in by the end of unit assessment; **after that, missing assignments from the unit will no longer be accepted. DO NOT** wait to turn in classwork before the assessment. You will fall behind in this class and you will end up in WIN sessions or be asked to come in before or after school to get caught up. Assignments not turned in by the due date will be marked with an orange missing flag and will have a zero until it is turned in. Assignments turned in before the end of the unit will be graded with a red late flag in PowerSchool. Assignments will be marked zero with a red late flag when an assignment is no longer allowed to be turned in.
- **Redoing Work:** You are expected to get a 70% or higher on your work. If your work is below 70%, you will be asked to redo the assignment. WIN sessions will be utilized to get caught up on work and to meet expectations.
- **Grading:** This class is based on a total point system. Your grade will be based on a variety of assessments including but not limited to map work, analyzing primary and secondary sources, quizzes, discussions, reading guides/notes, and end of unit assessments (tests, projects, etc.)  
**Grading Scale:** A = 90% +    B = 89-80%    C = 79-70%    D = 69-60%    F = 59% and below