 World Cultures 2017/2018 

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**Course Introduction**

This World Cultures course is a combination of Geography and Cultural Anthropology. It is designed to introduce the student to the concepts of culture in human experience and the concepts of geography. What culture is, how it develops, how it changes, and how it is transferred in time and space, its power to influence our lives and events, are some of the main topics examined. Because of the substantial influence of religion on human cultures and history, understanding major world religions will also be a focus of the course. Of course, such topics as the role of family, language, art, political ideologies, government types, gender roles, work, status and rank, war, and children are also examined. The students will become familiar with the “places” of the world by memorizing major locations and features.

**What is Geography?**

Geography is the science of space and place on Earth’s surface. It is an integrative discipline that brings together the physical and human dimensions of our world. Geography’s subject matter is the spatial arrangement of the physical and human phenomena that make up the world’s environments and gives character to places, large and small. Geography describes the changing patterns of places in words, maps, numbers and graphics, explains how these patterns come to be, and unravels their meaning.

Geography captures the imagination. It stimulates curiosity about the world and the world’s diverse inhabitants and places as well as about local regions and global issues. It enables us to understand our home by opening windows on the rest of the world.

**Why study Geography?**

To be successful contributors to a democratic society, all individuals need to have an understanding of geography, which means that they need to have an understanding of the spatial context of people, places and environments on Earth.

The geographically literate person knows where important things are, why they are located in those places and the significance of the locational patterns of the world. Furthermore, comprehends the nature and significance of multiple connections between people and places around the world.

**\*\*Required Materials\*\***

* A folder/binder for taking notes and organizing course materials (this needs to be ONLY for this class)
* 2 Notebooks (ONLY for this class)
* Writing utensils – Blue/Black pens, No. 2 pencils, a red pen for grading quizzes
* Access to the internet for supplementary readings, class website, research, etc. (Accommodations can be made)
* Access to a computer and printer for typing and printing assignments. (Accommodations can be made)

**Class Announcements and Reminders**

Homework and general classroom/school announcements will be posted on my professional Twitter account for students to follow. They can follow @MisterWilson16.

I will also use  remind (formerly Remind101) for announcements.  Remind is a service which allows me to setup a class account and then for the members of the class to sign up to receive text messages or emails from me (you will not know my number and I will not know your number through this service; also I can only send out messages, not receive responses). If you would like to receive reminders for this class, please follow these directions:

1. Sign up at this link: [https://www.remind.com/join/wilsonwc](https://www.remind.com/join/kwilsonwc) , OR
2. Text @wilsonwc this number: 81010.

If neither of the above works for you, please talk to Mr. Wilson and he’ll help you set up reminders for this class.

**Course Expectations and Rules**

In order for the classroom to function in a safe and respectable manner for everyone:

**Students will agree to:**

* Respect all other classmates (listen to and respect others’ opinions)
* Respect the instructor & course material
* Show up on time, focused, with the required materials and ready to participate in class
* Obey all school rules and policies laid out in the OHS Student Handbook
* Help create a safe and fun learning environment!

**Mr. Wilson will agree to:**

* Respect everyone as both a student and a person
* Give support and help to all students that need and request it
* Return all assignments in a timely manner
* Grade all assignments fairly and in an unbiased manner

**Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones are a useful tool in today’s society, however, they are not always helpful in a classroom environment where student participation and attention is required to adequately learn and retain all information that is presented. Because of this, cell phones are to be out of sight unless told otherwise in order to avoid becoming a distraction. If cellphones begin to become a problem, the student and I will have a conversation together to address the issue.

**Grading Policies**

*Grades in this course will be based off of the following assignments:*

**GRADES**

1. **20%= Formative Assessments (group work, classwork, etc.)**
2. **20%= Projects**
3. **10%= Quizzes**
4. **40%= Tests**
5. **10%= Final Exam**

**100 – 90 = A 89 – 80 = B 79 – 79 = C 69 – 60 = D 59 or below = F**

**Late Work Policy:** All assignments are due on the date specified by the instructor. However, I understand that things do happen and as such, I will accept late work up to a certain point for each unit for full credit, after that I won’t accept it at all. *All late work for each unit MUST be turned in on a date specified by the teacher for that unit (normally the day after a Unit Test).* **No late work for the specified unit will be accepted after such a date is posted by the teacher.**

**Make-up Work/Absent Policy:** If you know that you are going to miss class on a certain day, it is your responsibility to meet with me or email me to discuss what assignments you will miss and when they are to be turned in upon your return. *If you are absent*, then you will get the amount of days you were absent to turn in any missing assignments without penalty. Please, note that this policy can be modified as needed based on discussions between Mr. Wilson and the student affected.

**Missed Tests/Exams:** Students should be prepared to take a missed test/exam on the day they return to school or on an arranged day set up with the teacher.

**Extra Credit Policy:** There will be no individual opportunities for extra credit. However, I may offer opportunities to the whole class at my own discretion. These opportunities may include, but are not limited to: outside class meetings, attendance at a class related activity, CNN Student News Quizzes, Current Event articles, etc.

**Headphones/Ear Buds/Hoodies/Hats:** Over-the-ear headphones are prohibited. They should not be brought into the classroom. Ear buds or other small/low profile headphones can be kept in a pocket or purse as long as they are not used during the class period, unless given teacher permission. The School Dress Code according to the student handbook will be followed at all times regarding hoodies and other hats/caps.

**Test Corrections:** Retakes will be done upon student request, and an extra step must be down first (study guide, etc). Students can receive no higher than one letter grade max.

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***Confirmation:*** Please sign this part of the page and return it to Mr. Wilson before \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

My child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I have read the Course Plan and Outline and the Video List. We understand the framework of the course, the academic and behavior expectations, and the possible videos that may be shown. We also know that if we need to contact Mr. Wilson at any time during the school year, we can reach him via his phone or his email. Finally, we understand that this is a tentative course outline and that Mr. Wilson is able to change it during the year to best meet the learning needs of the class.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_