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| **Ms. Wolf**World Areas Syllabus | *Spring*2019 |
|  *“Geography is the backdrop of human history itself.”* -Robert D. Kaplan | If you have any questions you can always reach me at lwolf@iwacademy.org |

***Course Description and Rationale***

Geography is not only the study of locations and maps. A geographer is also interested in why things and people are where they are, how they got there, and what their impact is on the world around them. This means that geography includes the physical environment, culture, politics, and economics of the region. Geography is a spatial discipline and we will be investigating areas of the world from a spatial perspective.

Throughout the semester, we will study Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. These are the areas that are not always covered in courses like World History. We will combine a study of these areas with a study of basic geographic knowledge and tools. Students will use the tools and information they will gain from this class in everyday life as well as in their future study of history and other disciplines. As society is becoming increasingly global, knowledge of all areas of the world are necessary. As geography includes aspects of culture and politics as well as physical location, the students will prepared for the many paths they will take after this class.

***Materials***

1. **World Geography** text (optional)
	* Boehm, Richard G., Ph.D. *World Geography*. New York, NY: Glencoe, 2005.
	* Information will also be found on the Weebly site
2. Demerit card and planner everyday
	* There are a number of assignments and pertinent dates so a planner or handbook is essential.
3. Notebook or binder
	* Be sure to keep your notes together.
4. Access to a PC or a device, but not necessarily in class.
	* A good deal of homework assignments and readings will be found exclusively online.

Weebly Site

A good deal of information will be found exclusively on the Weebly Site and Google Classroom. It is important that you bookmark my site so that you have quick and easy access to it. My site is [www.mswolfiwa.weebly.com](http://www.mswolfiwa.weebly.com)

***Unit Outline***

**Lap 1—Five Themes of Geography**

**Lap 2 – How did Latin America’s Geography change the world?**

**Lap 3 – Africa, why haven’t you been?**

**Lap 4 – How can we fix the Middle East?**

**Lap 5 – Are we set for an age of Asian dominance over world politics and economics?**

***End of Course Goal***

Gain deep insightful knowledge of the world and have a better understanding of how everyone on the planet is interconnected in some ways.

***Assessment and Mastery***

**Assessment**

Each Lap will have a series of formative assessments known as learning goals. Each of the Learning Goals will have their own unique assessment. Assessments are designed for the student to show me what they have learned and how the students can communicate to me their knowledge of the goals. No classroom learns exactly the same way so assessments per Lap will undoubtedly vary.

**Structured Open Lab**

I reserve the right to structure any student who I believe is struggling. This structuring could last a cycle, Lap, or longer. The purpose of structured open lab time is for the student to get more individual assistance in the areas in which they are struggling (homework, quizzes, concepts, in class readings, etc). This is not a tutoring session. Students will be expected to work and put forth a solid effort while structured. Once their grade rises or their effort increases structuring will be lifted. This is not a punishment! This is to aid the student. However, if you miss a structured open lab you will receive a 1-D.

***Expectations***

1. According to school policy, any **phones** that ring during class or open lab will be confiscated
2. No **purses or bags** will be allowed on the desk tops during class or open lab.
3. **Respect** your instructor, your fellow students, and yourself at all times
4. I require **maturity**, responsibility and time management skills in my class.
5. I expect all students to **come** **prepared** to class with their book, paper and pen/pencil every day.
6. I expect all students to **arrive promptly** to class and be ready to begin in a timely manner.
7. I expect all students to **behave** in a responsible and mature manner for the entire class period.
8. I expect all students to **participate** appropriately in class discussions.
9. I expect all students to be in **proper uniform**.
10. I expect all students to complete written assignments using **complete sentences and proper grammar**.
11. Students may be given a **required** **outside** **reading** assignment to enrich the lesson. This will be listed in the lap where appropriate.

***Honors World Areas Projects***

Each Lap students in Honors World Areas students will see a table detailing a project. Students in Honors World Areas must complete a total of three projects over the course of the fall semester. Projects will vary in design from writing an essay on a specific and timely topic, oral presentations, debates, etc. If a student fails to complete the three projects their grade will reflect a 0%. Also, the student will receive an incomplete for the course if they do not complete the projects because they are summative assessments.

***Cheating/Plagiarism***

Cheating will not be tolerated. **Any student caught cheating will receive a zero and parents will be contacted – no exceptions whatsoever**. Cheating may also bring about demerits, detention, or other administrative action. Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else’s work and/or ideas.

Plagiarism will result in a zero, parent contact and possibly other administrative action – no exceptions whatsoever. **Copying work from another student is cheating**. Both students will receive a zero, parents contacted, etc. - the student copying the work and the student who gave work to be copied. Be responsible and mature – do your own work and do not enable another’s irresponsible behavior.

***Student Responsibility***

1. I emphasize **responsibility**, **maturity**, and **college preparation** skills in my class.
2. All students are given a **lap** which covers what we are doing for the entire unit.
3. **Every** Practice Assessment, quiz, Learning Goal, project, EQ, etc. is listed in the lap.
4. **Every** due date is listed in the lap.
5. There is **no excuse for not turning in assignments or being unprepared for tests, Learning Goals, or EQ projects/papers**. Time management is a very important skill and it is stressed in my class.

***Email Policy***

If you need to email me with questions, assignments, or other concerns, please note that you must use your school email account.  In addition, you must **check your student email account daily**. I will often send reminders, updates, or other emails with important information.  You are responsible for checking your email to receive these updates.

Additionally, it is important when emailing a teacher to note appropriate etiquette.  Emails that are not written respectfully and professionally will not be answered.Emails should look something like this:

***Dear Ms. Wolf,***

***I have a question about the homework.***

 ***How do I do the questions on page 3?***

***Thank you,***

***Mel***

**Remember, you are addressing a teacher when you email and it is a great skill to learn how to write concise and professional emails.**

**I WILL NOT RESPOND TO EMAILS SENT AFTER 6:00 PM, OR ON SATURDAYS UNTIL THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL DAY and/or SUNDAY**

***Enrichment***

1. Enrichment is exactly what it sounds like, enriching your understanding and knowledge of the material covered in the Lap.
2. Enrichment is designed to further your understanding of the material and not bail you out if you are struggling in class. **Enrichment activities will never be worth more than 5 points**.
3. Enrichment activities will vary. On some Laps, depending on the material that we are examining, students may be required to visit certain local museum exhibits, watch educational television programs or movies, write short papers over a primary documents, etc.
4. If you are struggling in class concentrate on the assignments and not the enrichment because the assignments are worth more and are more important than the enrichment activities.
5. Enrichment will be added at the end of Lap.

***Absences***

1. If you miss classes consult your Lap for information regarding what you missed. **It is up to you, the student, to figure out what you need to get caught up.** I will certainly help you, but you must take the responsibility in getting caught up. I will not seek you out if you missed a class or did not turn in assignment in.
2. **For all extended absences a timeline for the completion of your work will have to be agreed upon by the teacher and administration.** Contact me if you know that you will be missing school or my class for more than three days.
3. Write “**Absent**” on all work and place in corresponding bin in the classroom.

***Open Lab***

1. **Arrive promptly** in appropriate uniform and prepared with materials.
2. **Fob in** to every open lab and indicate what you intend to accomplish.
3. **Open lab is for learning activities, such as LAP activities, conferencing, or group projects.**
4. Work alone silently or quietly and respectfully in small groups.
5. Purses, pencil cases, book bags, or any other kind of bag must be on the floor at all times – no exceptions.

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| **Quick Info** |
| * Laps have been redesigned using the freshmen template. Laps have clear instructions on what is due at class time, what we will be doing in class, and finally what their assignment is for next time.
* All assignments must be handed in by you and you only. Do not give your assignment to someone else to turn in for you. I will not accept any assignments handed in by anyone except you.
* Failure to sign in to an open lab will result in a demerit. Open Labs are for Social Studies only.
* Any student caught using a device for a non-school related function will lose their ability to use the device in my classroom for the remainder of the cycle.
* Mastery leveled has been set at 80% for Honors World Areas level classes and 70% for standard World Areas classes.
* **Mandatory retakes for summative assessments are now only required if a student’s overall grade falls at or below the above mentioned percentage of 65%**
* If you wish to retake a summative assessment you will have to fill out a Retake Assessment Form online.
* Students in *Honors World Areas* must complete a total of three Lap projects over the semester. Projects will always be found on the Laps. Projects count as summative assignments. A failure to complete all three projects will result in the student receiving an **incomplete** for the course.
* **I reserve the right to structure any student who I believe is struggling.** This structuring could last a cycle, Lap, or longer. The purpose of structured open lab time is for the student to get more individual assistance in the areas in which they are struggling (homework, quizzes, concepts, in class readings, etc). This is not a tutoring session. Students will be expected to work and put forth a solid effort while structured. Once their grade rises or their effort increases structuring will be lifted. This is not a punishment! This is to aid the student. However, if you miss a structured open lab meeting time you will receive a 1-D.
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