

6th Grade World Cultures - Pre-AP
2015-2016 Syllabus

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Conference: 5th Period (1:38-2:27)



Welcome to World Cultures – I am looking forward to an exciting year!

This year in World Cultures - The focus of our course will be to master World Cultures and World Geography using Pre-AP designed strategies. This course is designed to help students acquire a better understanding of history, geography, economics, and culture. Using critical thinking and problem solving, students will be better able to view historical evidence in relationship to the modern world and its people. Pre-AP students can expect differentiation of curriculum based on examinations of Primary Source Documents, Secondary Source Documents, Writing Samples, and Method of Inquiry.

Instructional Materials

Textbook - World Cultures does NOT have an issued textbook. Short readings will be made available for students to use online, as well as printed copies provided for students with limited home Internet access.

Interactive Notebook (IN) – Students will be creating a “personalized” textbook in the form of an Interactive Notebook (IN). Using the composition notebook requested in the school supply list, students will create an indexed resource of all the key terms and concepts covered in class. This notebook will become extremely important as the year goes on and it is very important that students keep track of it. I have allocated space in my classroom for students to store notebooks for the majority of the time, but students will want to take it home to study for quizzes, tests, and exams. PLEASE do NOT lose your interactive notebook! Students who lose their notebook will be responsible for creating a new one on their own.

Internet/Technology Resources - Any student who is unable to access the Internet from home will be able to do so at school. A World Cultures classroom is available during morning tutorials, as well as the CL&I (Center for Learning and Innovation). Additionally, school Wi-Fi and a limited number of classroom computers will be available during students’ study hall time period (2nd half of advisory).

Printer - Students need to have access to a printer that is supplied with paper and ink. DSMS has plenty of printers, but when 450 sixth graders are trying to print their project at the same time, things occasionally go awry. We do our best to accommodate student printing needs, however, students will need to plan ahead if they are going to rely on using the school printers.

General Technology and BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) – Technology is an important aspect of our 21st century classroom and students will be utilizing various types of tech applications throughout the year. It is NOT required that a student has their own device with them at school everyday, but students will benefit from having a device to use for various activities. We do our best to provide school devices for students without access as much as possible. If you are purchasing a device for your student, no particular brand is best, but tablets are easier to read from than phones for online text. There are school wide expectations for technology

use in classroom which students will have to follow or risk getting their device privileges revoked. Students are responsible for their devices.

Student Accounts - Students will need to maintain access to several school-related Internet accounts throughout the year (Google for Education, Skyward, and others). We will set up students with their account information (login and password) at the beginning of the year and students will be accountable for remembering this information or writing it down in an accessible place.

Other supplies – Students will need access to an ultra-fine point sharpie and a set of map pencils or twistables at home at all times. Various projects will require other supplies as needed. I will communicate this well in advance, but if you have any questions or need financial assistance with any required supplies, please contact me.

Classroom Management – Students will be accountable for preserving their own and others' right to learn. Classroom policies will be explained and procedures will be rehearsed during the first week of school and students will be held accountable for adhering to them throughout the year. Specific information pertaining to policies and procedures will be sent home during the second week of school and will be available on my webpage year-round.

Parent-Teacher Communication - I encourage parent-teacher communication. I like to view parents and myself as teammates, working together to help students be their best version of themselves. In order to accomplish this goal, we will need to communicate frequently. There will be many ways for students and parents to get information about classwork and assignments, including my webpage and an online Siberian Team advisory assignment log. Due to our project-based learning approach, I will often need to communicate with parents via Skyward. Please ensure that you have signed up for Family Access via the district webpage (dsisdtx.us) and that your email address is correct in the system. I am trying a new way to track student progress and communicate with parents this year through an application called Class Messenger. More information will be coming home about this program will be sent out the first week of school.

Student-Teacher Communication – Students will be able to access information about World Cultures a variety of ways. The class webpage is full of information, helpful links, digital copies of assignments and handouts, project information, and more. Also on the webpage is the link for the online assignment summary, a shared Google document that each teacher on the Siberian team updates daily with homework due, homework assigned, and other important announcements. We may use other forms of communication depending on student need, such as Google Classroom and Class Messenger. Last, Students will be able to look at their grades and keep up with course averages via their own Skyward Student Access user name and password.

Coursework / Homework Information – World Cultures homework will reinforce ideas and concepts from class and some homework will provide preparation for the day to come. Students can expect homework on a near daily basis. All homework will be graded on mastery and accuracy but extra attention will be paid to critical thought. Parents can expect an average of 15 minutes of homework per night. If parents have concerns about the amount of time that a student is spending on homework per night, please contact me.

Grading Formula - All assignments will be graded on mastery.

70% Summative – Tests, Projects, Quizzes, Final Presentations, Ticket Tests

30% Formative - Daily Work, Homework, Mastery of the Daily Objective, Exit Tickets

****Late Work Policy –**

Formative: Students have a two-day window to turn in late work for a maximum grade of 70. After the two-day window, the grade will be a zero. Students may use a maximum of 2 homework passes per 6-week grading period to turn in *formative* grades ONE day late without a penalty.

Summative Projects: Students have a one-day window to turn in late work for a maximum grade of 70. After the one-day window, the grade will be a zero. Passes are not accepted for summative grades.

****Assignment Correction and Retesting -**

Formative: There will be no opportunity to correct for a better grade.

Summative: On TESTS or QUIZZES, students will have the opportunity to correct and/or retest for a passing grade of a 70. **Note:** Projects, Presentations, Final Products and Final Exams will NOT have an opportunity to correct for a better grade.

Make Up Work for Absences - For an **excused** absence, the student is given one day for each day absent to make up work missed. Work assigned prior to the first day of absence is due the day the student returns to class. It is the student's responsibility to visit their World Cultures teacher to collect missing work. Students can review the information posted on my webpage under the Homework/Week at a Glance tab to get an idea of what they missed before they return to school. **My webpage is the FIRST thing students should check if they are absent. There will be a rundown of make-up work they'll need to do and any handouts or notes will be posted as well. Checking this before coming back to school will help them have a much smaller load of make-up work.**

For a **planned or unexcused absence** (vacations, orthodontist appointments, sporting events, FFA stock shows, etc.) students will need to see me BEFORE leaving to collect work they will miss. Work will be due upon return from the unexcused absence.

Important date - MEET THE TEACHER - Thursday, September 3rd 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

World Cultures Course Outline:

1. Current Events – Geography – Culture – Religions – September 11th
2. Ancient Egypt: Government and Economics
3. Classical Europe: Greece and Rome
4. Medieval Europe to Modern Europe
5. Independence Movements in Latin America
6. Africa – below the Sahara
7. Asia – Culture and Problem Solving
8. Application to the Modern World

Please visit the following link to confirm that you and your parents have read and understood this syllabus.

<https://docs.google.com/a/dsisdtx.us/forms/d/1Gw5pYGtceoTgQBJy-KQ0J6DbCeGUwZPyYxoHI2ZgKsw/edit>