NNHS World Cultures Syllabus

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Social Studies Department Mission:

Our mission is to equip students with knowledge and skills so they can be active global citizens, curious thinkers and empathetic and compassionate human beings through our dynamic teaching and collaboration.

Course Description

What elements are universal to all cultures of the world? What are the factors that shape these elements? Students in World Cultures will use inquiry-based methods to analyze the geography, politics, economics, society and history of the world’s regions. The focus of the course is to discover the shaping factors of contemporary societies. Research, inference and analytical skills are stressed throughout the year so students can learn to create their own questions and discover their own answers about the world. In addition to cultural content, students will develop reading, writing, speaking and listening skills based on state standards. This course qualifies for the Illinois Global Scholar Certificate.

Course Unit Compelling Questions

- Unit 1: How do we understand our world?
- Unit 2: To what extent does Africa’s past determine its future?
- Unit 3: How does equality exist in a diverse society?
- Unit 4: To what extent is peace possible in the Middle East?
- Unit 5: What is more important: the individual or the society?

Course Skills

- Visual literacy (including maps, charts, graphs, political cartoons, etc.)
- Identify cause and effect relationships
- Textual analysis
- Claim writing and identification of appropriate support

Grading

Overall Semester grade:

85% of the Coursework grade (homework, projects, tests, quizzes)
15% Semester final exam and/or project

Reflection & How Can Students Do Better? Policy

Tests and Quizzes: Students who score lower than 79% or below on their first attempt can make corrections to the test or quiz. Any score 80% or higher cannot do test corrections. The purpose of test corrections is for a student to reflect on their academic performance and demonstrate an understanding of the course content & skills.

- A student can make test corrections to achieve up to 80%.
- Individual teachers will require students to complete work either before or after the assessment is given in order to be eligible for test corrections.
- Students must complete test corrections within 1 week of learning the results of the assessment.
Communication

● Teachers make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 48 hours during the work week.
● The best way to communicate with teachers is through email; however, if you haven't received a response within 48 hours, please resend the email or call their voicemail. Your email may have gone into the spam folder.

Help

● Make an appointment with your teacher.
● Attend S.O.S (supervised open study) in the Learning Commons M, W & Th from 3:15 to 4:15.
● Drop in to work with a peer tutor during lunch periods or before school in the Literacy Center.

Parents and/or Guardians

We need your help!

● Parents should actively check Infinite Campus for their student's grade.
  o The grades on Infinite Campus will be accurate only at Mid-Quarter and Quarter. Prior to those dates, the grade reflected is fluid.
  o Infinite Campus is a communication tool until final grade is posted.
● Please ask your student about what they are currently studying in World Cultures. Talk about current events with your student and make connections to our class.