

**TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Larkspur, California**

Course of Study

WORLD CULTURES AND GEOGRAPHY

I. INTRODUCTION

World Cultures & Geography (WCG) is a one semester district graduation requirement for all students, usually taken in the ninth grade. During the semester course, students will examine the complex relationships between people and their environment. Students will examine how the physical geography influences history and society as well as how the cultural geography of various regions continues to influence current events.

WCG will focus mainly on non-western regions (Asia, Africa & Latin America) in order to complement the tenth grade World History course that, according to California state standards, focuses primarily on western civilization. By using regional and global approaches, students will study the economic, political and social systems of non-western regions. Students will also explore the concept of globalization, and see how the actions of cultures across the globe are increasingly affecting the world's physical and human environment.

Furthermore, WCG will focus on developing fundamental academic skills that students will use in subsequent social studies classes. These will include analytical thinking, reading, writing, research, speaking and geography skills.

WCG will address the following Tam 21st Century goals:

- Prepare students for lives of personal, academic, and professional growth, achievement, and fulfillment.
- Prepares students to think conceptually, solve complex problems, acquire knowledge, communicate ideals and work individually and collaboratively.

This course also addresses the following TUHSD Student Learning Outcomes:

- #1 - Communicate articulately, effectively, and persuasively when speaking and writing
- #2 - Read/view and analyze material in a variety of disciplines
- #3 - Use technology to access information, analyze/solve problems, and communicate ideas
- #4 - Demonstrate knowledge of individual rights and responsibilities in a democratic society
- #7 - Demonstrate knowledge of the global environment and its resources
- #10 - Analyze current issues from historical, political, economic, geographic, scientific and multicultural perspectives

This course complements and reinforces other courses throughout the District curriculum, including World History and Contemporary Issues (Social Studies), Integrated Science, Art Exploration and Art History.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

A. Outcomes

In this course, students will:

1. Interpret and utilize a variety of maps and other sources of geographic data to gain a better understanding of topics including (but not limited to) physical geography, climate, political boundaries, cultural and religious distributions of populations, migration, settlement patterns, and trade.
2. Analyze major issues and events in the non-Western regions related to the interaction of people and the environment, taking into account multiple perspectives. An emphasis will be placed on helping students identify bias. Students will present their analyses through writing, class discussion, debates, and presentations.
3. Demonstrate knowledge and awareness of the diversity of the earth's cultures by comparing and contrasting physical characteristics, customs and traditions, resources, government, economic development and demographics. An emphasis will be placed on understanding the complexity of cultural adaptation, assimilation, acculturation and dissonance to explain how cultural interaction influences our changing world.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the course content through expository and reflective writing, notes and questions on assigned readings, analysis of primary source documents, interpretation of photographs, art and regional cinema, and other assignments.
5. Improve essential skills in reading (including comprehension, vocabulary development, and analysis of text) of textbooks, newspapers, primary sources, etc; writing (using a thesis, supporting a thesis with evidence and commentary, citing sources), speaking to a group, and using technology (for research and presentations) as well as organization and time management.

B. Course Content

WCG is a district graduation requirement and not a state requirement. Some of the state content standards for 10th grade World History, those emphasizing non-Western regions, are included in WCG and are so indicated in the course of study. Individual teachers may

address the course content listed below either chronologically or thematically, emphasizing important aspects of the content.

In this course, students will:

1. Review and build on earlier studies of physical geography to understand how maps and related tools are used to acquire, process, synthesize, and report information from a spatial perspective.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the meaning and applications of the five themes of geography as applied to Africa, Asia and Latin America:
 - Regions, as determined by unifying characteristics that may be physical, human, or cultural,
 - Location - absolute and relative,
 - Place, as described by physical and human characteristics,
 - Human/Environment Interactions,
 - Movement, of people, products, information, and ideas
1. Analyze the history and impacts of imperialism in Africa, Asia and Latin America from the perspective of the colonizers and the colonized and the varied immediate and long-term responses by the people under colonial rule. (10.4).
2. Analyze the patterns and impacts of religion, economic development, resource allocation, ethnicity & gender, technology, political alliances, social structures, health, human rights, and the environment in shaping the development of contemporary nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America (10.10).

III. ASSESSMENT

A. Student Assessment

Specific grading standards and classroom procedures will be set by individual teachers and communicated clearly to students, in writing, at the beginning of the course.

Students will be assessed on the learning outcomes through a variety of means including:

- Written exams, quizzes, and tests. These written exams may combine essay, short answer or multiple-choice questions, including identifications on an outline map.
- Written responses in a notebook or journal. These may include reactions to comprehension and analysis questions from primary and secondary source readings, class discussion, and visual presentations.
- Individual and group projects that may include writing, art, technology, and speaking.
- Debates and discussion which may be assessed using the Tam District Rubric for oral presentation and speaking certificate.

B. Course Assessment

This course will be assessed every five years in accordance with the Curriculum Cycle. The assessment will include departmental and administrative observation, as well as student and parent feedback. There is no formal state or district assessment for this course.

IV. METHODS AND MATERIALS

A. Methods

A variety of strategies will be used to implement the curriculum and address the student outcomes previously mentioned. These will include:

- Group discussions
- Reading and analysis of primary documents and secondary sources
- Content centered teacher lectures and presentations
- Guest speakers
- Research based projects
- Films (both regional and American)
- Student centered oral presentations
- Individual visual art and technological projects (i.e. PowerPoint, short film, website)

B. Materials

- Textbook, as approved by the TUHSD Board of Trustees
World Geography: Building A Global Perspective, Baerwald & Fraser, Prentice Hall, 2005
- Primary resources drawn from a variety of sources
- Magazine and newspaper articles
- Library and references sources including books, atlases, encyclopedias, and the Internet
- School and community resources including guest speakers and community organizations

C. Technology

Audio-visual resources include CD-ROMs, VHS tapes, slides, photographs, PowerPoint, DVD, Internet and film.

Student use of technology may include any of the following:

- PowerPoint slideshows
- Creating websites
- Creating documentary films

- Internet and online encyclopedia research

D. School to Career Goals

- Students will identify careers with an international focus or context, such as journalism, diplomacy, Peace Corps, trade, health, etc.
- Students will appreciate the diverse experiences and perspectives presented by guest speakers who represent various economic, political and social aspects of world cultures.

E. Suggested Instructional Time Allocation

Each major of the four major units of study (Geographic Skills, Africa, Asia, Latin America) for the semester will be approximately four or five weeks in length.

V. GENERAL INFORMATION

World Cultures and Geography is a one semester, 5 credit course required for graduation usually taken in the ninth grade and serves as a foundation for subsequent Social Studies courses.

A. Prerequisite

There are no prerequisites for this course.

B. Requirements Met

This course is required for graduation and can be used in partial fulfillment of the University of California "a" or "g" requirements.

Approved: 9-95

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