

# READINESS PROFILE & COURSE EXPECTATIONS

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## Contemporary World Cultures and Geography

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contemporary World Cultures and Geography introduces students to the concept of the global community and to contemporary issues through a series of area-studies, including Latin America, Middle East, Asia and sub-Sahara Africa. Cultural components, cultural values, and major issues facing these regions are emphasized, along with their geographical diversity, providing students with an opportunity to see past the present of these regions and systemically think about their future, emphasizing critical thinking and problem solving. Knowledge and application of the research process and a variety of instructional strategies will be utilized. These include writing assignments, research papers, and oral presentations that emphasize effective communication and critical thinking skills, and that foster curiosity, while preparing students for the challenges of citizenship in a global community. The course curriculum and assessments are designed to increase rigor and prepare students for higher level social science courses and testing. The course is also intended to prepare students to learn to work collaboratively in a spirit of mutual respect with individuals representing diverse cultures, regions and lifestyles.

- This course will receive PUSD Elective credit and may be used to meet the UC/CSU "A" or "G" requirement.

### COURSE CONTENT AND EXPECTATIONS

Students will learn about climate issues, weather patterns, landforms, soils, vegetation and water usage. The class focuses on how the world's population impacts the globe and is required for further study in the field. Topics include population growth, economic development, urbanization, resource allocation, land use and geopolitics. Students will examine most populated regions (at a national, regional or city level) on our planet. Additionally, we will study the impact of several major historical events and how those events continue to influence cultural geography.

### MAJOR UNITS OF STUDY

- North America
  - Canada's Core Regions
  - The Great Lakes watershed
  - Urban Sprawl
  - Consumption Patterns
- Latin America
  - Spatial Inequalities
  - Megacities (Mexico City)
  - Mayans in the Modern World

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- Europe
  - European Economic Community to the European Union
  - Population issues
- Africa
  - Physical Features (Nile River)
  - Adapting to a Desert Region (Sahara and Sahel)
  - Micro-Entrepreneurs
  - South Africa today (Post-Apartheid)
- Southwest Asia (Middle East)
  - Impact of Oil
  - Istanbul
- Asia
  - Megacities Infrastructure
  - India's Technology and Workforce
  - China as most populated
  - Japan - Population Density

## STUDENT BACKGROUND

### **Students enrolling in Cultural Geography may**

- Have a strong interest in the curricular area
- Show competency or require guidance in drawing connections across time and problems involving complex, critical thinking and non-routine problems.
- Read material with a critical eye and lacks interest or has difficulty formulating questions that express critical understanding of material
- Read for pleasure, but generally only reads subject-related material when assigned for class.

## WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS

Regular attendance and participation is a must. Homework will be assigned as needed, along with research projects, unit tests, presentations and a variety of in-class work. In addition, students will be required to maintain their course notebook, organize portfolios of their work and make oral presentations.

**Grading** is cumulative for each 9-week period (Quarter) and will be based on a point system. 90%+=A, 80%+=B, 70%+=C, 60%+=D, 59% and below = F. Grades are posted regularly.