

# World Regional Geography

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## Class Expectations

**Description:** This challenging course will take a full year, divided into two semesters. The course will walk the students around the approximately 200 nations of the world using a regional approach and heavily relying on the Five Themes of Geography (Location, Place, Human Environment & Interaction, Movement and Region). Each class will use current events to cast light onto the region being studied, thereby cementing the information into the memory of the student. The first semester has a cumulative term exam and the second semester has a Final Team Project which is presented at the Geography Banquet in late March.

**Expectations:** Each student is expected to prepare for each class, arrive promptly, and treat the tutor and his/her fellow students with the utmost of respect. Note taking is expected and will be rewarded by a far higher score than those who do not take careful notes. A project will be completed in the spring semester: This small group project will culminate in my Annual Geography Banquet held in March. The work for the course will involve approximately 3-5 hours a week outside of class. This does not include research for projects. The homework will include reading articles, coloring in the secondary Coloring Book text, doing online research, reading current events and writing up short write-ups on them, and taking in class quizzes and take-home tests (one "take-home" honor system mid-term will be administered in the fall semester).

**Texts will include:** Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time (Paperback) by Dava Sobel, and The Geography Coloring Book by Wyn Kapit (3rd Edition), The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba, and Smithsonian's Earth. In addition to these four books I would like each student to have a current atlas – these are available at places like Border's for \$10 or less.

**Materials:** Each student will be required to have the following supplies: a loose leaf notebook with sections, writing tools, and have access to a computer and the Internet. I rely heavily on email communication and expect my students to have access to the internet for research. Their final project in the spring semester will need Microsoft PowerPoint..

**Internet & Multimedia:** I will be accessing Google Earth and other Geography Teaching internet sites during class on my laptop. This is essential to showing the students the information pertinent to the various areas of study in geography. I will also be using educational DVD materials from the ABC Newsroom during some classes.

**Communication:** The best way to contact me is by email. My home phone number is: 301-352-4188, and my email is [chrisschaeffer2005@gmail.com](mailto:chrisschaeffer2005@gmail.com) . I am on Facebook and can also be reached via cell phone at 301-873-7464 in emergencies.

**Requirements:** Internet access, library access, and an ability to read the assigned texts in time for each class. In addition, an ability to write a basic essay is essential. Please contact the teacher if you have questions about whether the student will be able to keep up.

**Quiz & Test Policies:** I expect the students to prepare for their assignments EACH WEEK. I tell the students when the quizzes are and expect them to be prepared. This is not a class where you can afford to fall behind. There will be frequent quizzes as I feel that the students need this incentive to stay active in the class. The quizzes are map quizzes as well as fill in questions. They are given at the beginning of class. This means that if the student is late he or she will have less time to take the quiz.

**Assignments:** Assignments are due each week. If they are turned in late then they are 10% off for the first week late, 20% off for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week and will not be accepted after that point. The Current Event Worksheet is ESSENTIAL to the course. This means your student should be allowed to watch the news or look online for current event several days before the class. I recommend the BBC World News, though it can be a bit harsher than American news channels.