

Subject: World Cultures 1,2

Teacher: Scot Gillis

Text: World Geography: Building a Global Perspective

Required Materials:

Communication:

- Leland High School 535-6290 ext 356
- Teacher's e-mail: Scot_Gillis@sjusd.org
- Teacher's Web Site: <http://leland.sjUSD.org/~sgillis/index.html>

Course Content and Standards: The year is set-up around the five major themes of Geography: **LOCATION, PLACE, HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTION, MOVEMENT, & REGIONS**. These five areas will be the focus of the school year, and will be presented in a sequential manner. The focus of the course will be the understanding of these five areas as they relate to the daily lives of people around the world. Our official class name is World Cultures 1,2

Required Supplies and Materials

. Students must also have paper, pens, and pencils. It is strongly recommended that each student have box of colored pencils as we use them regularly in class.

Classroom Conduct

All students are responsible for and must adhere to all school and district rules found in the LHS and SJUSD handbooks. Students are to be in their seats when the tardy bell rings and to be **attentive and courteous** during instruction, discussion and group activities.

Additionally, students are to **keep their desks free of trash. NO FOOD, DRINKS, OR SNACKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE ROOM AT ANY TIME.** (Water is the only exception.) **Noontime campus cleanup or classroom detention will be assigned for eating or drinking ANYTHING in class.**

In addition to school-wide rules and expectations, I expect a mature attitude with regard to coursework. Demonstration of a serious and responsible approach will weigh heavily in evaluation of student performance. A "serious approach" means:

- 1) Being prepared/reading assignments completed ON TIME. Late work will not be accepted for 75% of the total value following the day the assignment was due.
- 2) All students will be expected to write in complete sentences and progress into writing comprehensive paragraphs.
- 3) Frequent and relevant class participation.
- 4) Extensive note taking on lectures, films, and readings.
- 5) Avoid absences and tardiness.
- 6) Use the restrooms before class.
- 7) Bringing required materials to class daily.
- 8) Please finish food and drink and combing/bushing hair or applying cosmetics before coming to class. Water bottles are allowed.
- 9) Stay in your seat until the bell rings, and wait until the teacher dismisses you before leaving.
- 10) RESPECT the teacher, each other, and school property.

Homework

Homework is an on-going, daily process, an extension of or preparation for class work, and includes reading, writing, reviewing, studying, or working on long-term projects. Homework is considered due at the beginning of the period. **Copying homework or other assignments, or allowing others to copy your work including work for other classes, is considered CHEATING.** Students involved will receive a No Credit grade of zero (0), no re-do, and will be reported to administration and parents. Daily homework will be posted on the homework board, and on the class website.

Make-up and Late Work

When absent, a student is personally responsible for getting assignments from the teacher, class website, or a "study buddy" in class so that, if possible, the work can be turned in upon return to class. Students absent for one day will be expected to take a test or hand in work that was due on the day of absence on the day of return. For two or more days of EXCUSED absence, the student will have the same number of days, including weekends, to submit make-up work without penalty. After that, work will be treated as LATE.

Homework that is turned in one day after the due date can receive 75% of the possible points, after that, no late homework will be accepted. Tests can be retaken as long as 50% was achieved the first time the test or quiz was attempted. Re-take can be brought up to a maximum of 78% (C+).

Tests and quizzes must be made up on the day of return after an absence. It is the responsibility of the student, not the teacher, to make sure all missed tests and quizzes have been made-up. Make sure to check with the teacher on the day of your return to see if any quizzes were missed. All missed tests and quizzes will be recorded as a zero (0) in the grade book and cannot be made up in the future. Make-up tests and quizzes may differ in form from the one originally given in class.

Grading Policy

Grades are determined on a percentage of "total points earned" basis. Progress reports issued throughout the semester are simply grade-to-date, cumulative grades, and do not go on your permanent record. **Semester grades reflect the total points earned during the semester.** Student grades can be checked at any time on the parent viewer website.

Grades given at the grading periods are NOT NEGOTIABLE, or subject to change **unless there is an error.** Such errors or omissions **must be discussed with the teacher at the time of grade postings.** Plan ahead, pay attention, and remember that most top students turn their work in on time and complete.

Grades are scaled on the following percentage scale:

89.5-100% = A 79.5-89% = B 69.5-79% = C 59.5-69% = D 0-59% = F

Textbook used in Class

World Geography: Building a Global Perspective

Each student will receive a textbook which can be left at home.

San Jose Unified School District Lifelong Learning Standards

Please read and be aware of the following standards.

Students will be **effective communicators** who:

- ✓ Listen objectively with understanding
- ✓ Speak with clarity of meaning to any audience for a variety of purposes
- ✓ Read a variety of materials with understanding
- ✓ Use a variety of strategies to communicate information

Students will be **informed thinkers** who:

- ✓ Identify, define and solve problems
- ✓ Set criteria and analyze alternatives in making decisions
- ✓ Use a variety of critical and creative strategies in solving problems and making decisions
- ✓ Explain their thought processes in arriving at outcomes
- ✓ Apply problem-solving and decision-making skills to real life situations

Students will be **self-directed learners** who:

- ✓ Assess and reflect on their attitudes, skills and behaviors
- ✓ Set priorities, plan and take action to accomplish goals
- ✓ Manage time and resources efficiently
- ✓ Apply what they learn to other situations
- ✓ Explore and prepare for academic, extracurricular and career opportunities

Students will be **collaborative workers** who:

- ✓ Contribute to the achievement of group or team goals
- ✓ Perform a variety of roles within groups or teams
- ✓ Acknowledge and respect contributions of others
- ✓ Reflect on group or team and personal performance

Students will be **responsible members of society** who:

- ✓ Recognize diverse ethnic, linguistic, cultural and economic backgrounds
- ✓ Recognize the rules and processes that govern societies
- ✓ Demonstrate and exercise the skills required to be a contributing member of a society
- ✓ Apply practices that preserve the safety and health of one's self, others and the environment

Students will be **information processors** who:

- ✓ Identify, access, gather and evaluate relevant data
- ✓ Convert data into usable information related to need
- ✓ Build knowledge by using a variety of information resources and tools including technology

Cut Below, and return to Mr. Gillis

I have read all of the guidelines for Mr. Gillis's 2007-2008 class and understand that I am responsible for knowing and abiding them.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent email address _____