Course Title: World Geography Foundations

Course #: 1620

Course Description: World Geography is a course that studies major events and movements from World History through the lens of geography while integrating the development of core academic skills. Students will investigate historical events through project-based learning and research. Map and primary source analysis are an integral part of the course. Students will frequently debate the interpretation of historical events and draw connections to today’s world.

UC/CSU Approval: “a” approved

Grade Level: 9

Estimated Homework Per Week: 15-90 Minutes (Mostly project-based classwork)

Prerequisite: None

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Basic Middle School Social Science Curriculum

Course Grade Scale:
- Homework/Projects: 50%
- Exams/Quizzes: 30%
- Final Project: 20%

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
I. Introduction to Geography
Students will learn basic concepts of geography. They will work with maps and absolute and relative location.
- Assessment - Travel Journal Trip - Research/Creative Project

II. Pre-1492 and 1492: The Historical and Geographical Significance of Columbus
Students will look at primary sources from the time of Columbus and analyze the Columbian Exchange through a project.
- Assessment - The Columbian Grill Group Project

III. The Transatlantic Slave Trade: The Largest Forced Migration in World History
Students will study the Middle Passage and take a 15 question quiz on the topic.

IV. The Fall of American Empires
Students will analyze the effect of Guns, Germs, and Steel on the Native populations of the Americas.

- Assessment: Project - Weaponry Timeline - group project

V. Introduction to Research-Based Writing

Students will learn how to write academic papers from a historical standpoint.

- Assessment - Columbian Exchange DBQ (Document-based Question)
  - Students will get an assignment, documents, and graphic organizers and must turn in all of their work with their finished product.

VI. Imperialism: The Geographic Development of Empires

Students will use this topic as the background to their introduction to research based writing.

- Assessment -- 5 Paragraph Essay Test
  - Students will get 3 questions from the lectures and use the graphic organizers as a scaffolding tool to plan their thoughts before they take the exam.

VII. War in the Twentieth Century and its Shaping of the Contemporary World

Students will get a brief history of the World Wars and Cold War and use maps to identify battle sites.

- Assessment -- World War and Cold War Battle Maps
  - You will be given blank templates of various maps
    - World War I - Europe
    - World War II - Europe and Pacific
    - Cold War -- World Wide
  - On these maps, you will annotate the major battles of each War
  - On Notability, you will describe these battles - Date, Length, Belligerents, Winner

VIII. The Middle East Part I: Israel

Students will use map-based assignments to learn about the beginnings of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

- Assessment -- The Partition of Israel
  - Students will complete an assignment that details the development of Israel from 1947 to the present.

IX. The Middle East: Part II: Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and the West

Students will use map-based assignments to document conflicts in the Middle East from 1950 to the present.

- Assessment -- Middle East Conflict Maps
  - You will annotate the major battles of each War
  - Describe these battles - Date, Length, Belligerents, Winner