**Course Syllabus**

**2017-18 Global Studies – 7th Grade**

Mr. Patterson – Room 216

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**Course Description**

In 7th grade Global Studies, we will learn about people, places, and environments in different regions of the world with an emphasis on Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Students will review how to use maps and other geographic tools to acquire, process, and synthesize information. In each unit of study, we will examine a region’s characteristics, history, and culture so as to better understand the world in which we live.

**Essential Questions**

**Semester 1**

Unit 1: Sub-Saharan Africa – *How does the past influence the present?*

Unit 2: North Africa –*To what extent does geography and culture influence the way people live and interact with their physical environment?*

Unit 3: Middle East **–** *What causes conflict and how can conflict be managed?*

**Semester 2**

Unit 4: Central/South Asia – *Is your future (job, wealth, happiness) determined at birth?*

Unit 5: East Asia – *Will there always have to be people in poverty?*

Unit 6: Southeast Asia/Oceania – *In an era of globalization, should the United States trade with countries that have a history of human rights violations?*

**Grading**

This year, every teacher at Callanan will be grading on a 4-point scale rather than the traditional 100-point scale. A student’s score on specific grade-level standards, as well on the Citizenship and Employability Skills Rubric, will be reported as a 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4. The general scale is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scale Score** | **Academic Descriptor** |
| 4 | Exceeding Standard |
| 3 | Meeting Standard |
| 2 | Developing Toward Standard |
| 1 | Insufficient Progress |
| 0 | No evidence of student understanding in submitted work. |
| M | Missing – Student has not submitted evidence. |

Each score on the above scale represents a student’s level of mastery for a particular standard, and will allow teachers to give targeted feedback to a student regarding progress to the next performance level.

**Retakes**

One of the cornerstones of Standard Referenced Grading is that a student’s eventual mastery of a targeted skill is more important than the necessary timing of when that learning takes place. Receiving a “4” on an assessment is the same whether it was achieved on the first attempt or the fifth. However, there are a few stipulations that students must follow concerning retakes:

* Retakes are permitted at the discretion of the teacher.
* Teachers reserve the right to give alternative versions of the assessment.
* Students are encouraged to retake assessments to show mastery of the standard.
* Teachers may choose not to allow any retakes in the last week of a grading period.

**Citizenship and Employability Grade**

While the academic grade will be comprised of only assessments taken in class, there are several factors that make up a student’s Citizenship and Employability Grade. Student’s participation, work completion, behavior, and ability to work with peers and adults, will be tracked by both the students and the teacher throughout the semester. The data collected will help determine whether the student is a leader, participant or detractor in each category.

**Classroom Expectations**

An integral part of a student’s Citizenship and Employability grade will be their ability to follow both classroom and school expectations. While the complete list of school expectations can be found in the student planner, the below expectations will be stressed daily in Mr. Patterson’s classroom. Following these three simple rules will ensure all students have access to a quality learning environment. 1. Be respectful

2. Be quiet when asked

3. Understand that will be working on challenging tasks

**Classroom Materials**

Students will keep a folder with internal prongs in the classroom at all times. Students are also encouraged to bring a writing utensil and headphones to class daily.

**Student Assistance**

If classroom accommodations need to be made for any reason, such as a seating change, please let me know as soon as possible. I am available for assistance before school from 7:00-7:30 a.m. and after school from 2:35-3:10 p.m. daily. While “walk-ins” are always welcome, it would be beneficial to let me know in advance so I can prepare any necessary materials if needed.

Sign and Return

By signing below, I’m acknowledging that I understand and agree to the policies and expectations outlined in Mr. Patterson’s course syllabus.

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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