

Global Studies 2009-2010

Course Description

This course will be a great adventure as we travel the world together. We will learn about geography, culture, economics, government and history. Through these content areas we will also learn how to do research, how to write about our experiences and how to present the information to each other.

Course Objectives

Throughout the year will be answering the following questions about the world in which we live:

- How do we study geography?
- What can we learn about the government, economy and history of a particular country?
- How can we relate current events to past events?
- How are we in Thetford connected to communities around the world?
- Why should we know and care about what goes on in other parts of the world?

We will also focus on the following concepts and skills:

- Critical thinking through writing and reading
- Working in groups
- Gathering, interpreting and presenting information

Course Outline

We will be studying four regions in depth throughout this course: Asia, the Middle East, the Americas, and sub-Saharan Africa. During each unit we will focus on different concepts of geography, social studies (economics, civic responsibility, government, etc.) and culture, as well as different parts of the writing process. The following is an outline of the year.

Quarter 1: Asia

Quarter 2: The Middle East/Northern Africa

Quarter 3: The Americas

Quarter 4: Sub-Saharan Africa

Assessment

•Your overall grade in Global Studies will be a straight tally of all points earned in a quarter. Point values are based on a variety of factors: time devoted to the assignment, work required to complete assignment, etc. You can keep track of your grade throughout the quarter by dividing the total points you earned by the total points available.

Writing – Part of your grade will be based on your ability to write clear and understandable reports. We will start the year with basic writing exercises that will help you develop and improve your skills. As the year progresses, we will be introducing new concepts of research and writing. We will be following the Vermont Framework of Standards for report writing. Writing assignments will include: report writing journal entries and reflective writing, summaries of current events and correspondence.

Projects – Projects are a great way to apply your skills and knowledge to create something that can be shared with the class. This year we will take on individual as well as small group and class-sized projects. Projects will include: painting flags for the classroom walls, setting up correspondence with foreign students and cooking food from around the world.

Maps – This would not be a geography class without maps. Each unit you will be asked to create and interpret a variety of maps. We will have quizzes relating to a map or map concept (scale, topography, population, etc.). You will be creating your own maps and graphs.

Participation – Everyone is expected to contribute to this course. Your participation in group projects and class discussions will represent 10% of your overall grade based on the Effort and Attitude Rubric.

PAW

In addition to your regular work in this class you will also be working toward your Portfolio of Assessed Work (PAW). This will be an on-going process as you collect materials from your core classes that meet specific standards. In Global Studies you will be expected to write a report that meets the Social Studies Department standards. You will be guided through this process but it will be your responsibility to stay on track and keep up with the work.

Contact info

There are many ways you can contact me this year. I will be available after school every Wednesday from 2:05-3:05. Feel free to stop by or to schedule an appointment during that time. I will also be available during A-block in my room. After school you may call me at home with any questions you may have (802) 333-3608. I can be reached via email casey.huling@thet.net. My phone number at school is (802) 785-4805.