

Geography – SOC101

Course Description: Students will study the essential elements of geography. Topics will include world religions and culture, political and economic systems, and human impact on the environment. Students will also learn essential social studies skills through field work. Students who take this course will be better prepared for success in future Social Studies courses. This is an elective course. This course fulfills Washington state public 4-year college/university social science admission requirements. In this semester course, you will investigate our world's geography. Geography is the answer to the question that the earliest humans asked, "What's over there?" Exploration and the discovery of new places, new cultures, and new ideas have always been basic components of geography.

Course Outline:

UNIT 1 - Introduction to Geography

Big idea: Where in the world do people live, and why do they live there?

UNIT 2 – Location, Location, Location

Big idea: How does geography help us understand our world?

UNIT 3 - Western Hemisphere

Big idea: How do neighboring countries cooperate economically?

UNIT 4 - Eastern Hemisphere

Big idea: What is the role of physical and human geography in regional conflicts?

UNIT 5 - Final Unit

Big idea: How do physical and human geography connect or separate people?

Course Objectives:

GEOGRAPHY The student uses a spatial perspective to make reasoned decisions by applying the concepts of location, region, and movement and demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments.

Component 3.1 Understands the physical characteristics, cultural characteristics, and location of places, regions, and spatial patterns on the Earth's surface. 3.1.2 Identifies major world regions and understands their cultural roots.

Component 3.2 Understands human interaction with the environment. 3.2.1 Analyzes and evaluates human interaction with the environment across the world in the past or present. 3.2.2 Understands and analyzes examples of ethnocentrism. 3.2.3 Understands the causes and effects of voluntary and involuntary migration in the world in the past or present.

Component 3.3 Understands the geographic context of global issues. 3.3.1 Understands how the geography of expansion and encounter has shaped global politics and economics in the past or present.

Number/Description of Projects, Exams, Activities, etc:

- **10 Activities** – Within each of the units, students must complete formative activities. When completed, the activities provide feedback to students on ways to improve learning for better understanding.
 - **5 Journal Discussion Assignments** – At the end of each of the units, students will complete a journal assignment. The teacher and other students read each journal assignment and provides and feedback.
 - **5 Projects** – Students are encouraged to present their understanding in a variety of alternative ways using technology.
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Materials:

All textbook readings are included in online course.

Timelines & Methods for evaluating student progress: Students are expected to log in daily and submit assignments on a weekly basis. Progress will be evaluated each month based progress towards assignment completion of assignments. This course meets state and district **graduation requirements** in the area of Social Studies.

Weekly contact will be conducted through a submitted assignment with instructor feedback. Students who do not submit an assignment are expected to email or call his/her instructor. Each student is expected to spend a **minimum of five hours per week** on this course. Additional hours may be necessary to complete the course successfully.