

GEOGRAPHY 12

Contact: amcintosh@sd44.ca

Class Website: Portal login → "My Classes" → Geography 12

Welcome... Welcome to Geography 12! I am very excited to have you in my class, and I am going to do my best to ensure that you will be happy to be in this class. This course outline is intended to summarize all of the course information and expectations that we will discuss in class. As for the course content, Geography is all about interactions. It covers a variety of subjects that help us understand the physical, natural and human systems by looking at people, places and environments. This year, we will be examining different landscapes to help us understand the connections between our own actions and how the earth's physical systems function. Through our study of geography, we can develop an understanding of how local, regional, and global environments affect us.

Learning Expectations...The following topics and skills will be explored this year.

- **The Nature of Geography**

- *The five themes of location, place, human and physical interaction, movement, and regions.*
- *The subsystems of the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere are the four physical spheres that constitute the earth. These are examined with close reference to the human geography systems of culture, society, politics, and economics.*
- *Develop sets of skills that enable us to acquire, organize, analyze and use spatial geographic information*

- **Systems of the Earth - Physical Processes**

- *Weather - how to understand its patterns and prepare for changes in the environment.*
- *Climate - how understanding climatic controls and regions allows people to adapt to and modify their environment.*
- *Tectonic processes - a study of plate tectonics and how people respond to changes in the lithosphere.*
- *Gradation process - water, wind, and ice shape the surface of the earth. We add the study of how humans are affected by this physical shaping of the environment.*

- **Resources of the Earth - the nature and spatial distribution of resources and how humans perceive and manage them.**

- *Nature of resources - products such as water, wildlife, timber, petroleum, and recreation that are provided by the natural environment.*
- *Management of resources - impact of human interactions upon the physical and natural environment.*
- *Sustainability of resources - exploring the concept of sustainability in order to appreciate the complex nature of human interaction with the environment.*

Attendance... In my classes, attendance is particularly important. My classes are interactive, and thus require you to be in the classes to gain the opportunities to participate. Missing too many classes, whether for legitimate reasons or not, will affect your learning, success, and mark. If you are away, **it is your responsibility to check the class website to find out what work you have missed and to complete it.** We can discuss a reasonable time-line or extension for completing the work. Students can contact me at the above email address and I am available after school as the need may be.

Course Materials... Coming to class prepared is a necessity. Please bring each of the following to every class:

- **One Binder with Paper and dividers**
- **Two ink pens**
- **One Highlighter pen**
- **Your Agenda or Personal Planner**

Class Rules... In order for our class to function properly, there are a few simple rules I have. These rules are generally to **respect** your own learning, the other people in the class, and our learning environment

- When someone is speaking to the whole class, everyone else must be **listening**.
- Treat others **respectfully** – do not threaten, make fun of, or make personal attacks on others.
- **All** assignments must be completed satisfactorily to pass the course.
- Try your best, and do not hand in other people's work. **Do not copy other student's work or plagiarize.**
- If you *need* to leave the class –ask me before leaving.
- Food and drink is permitted if it does not distract or inhibit anyone's learning. Clean up your own mess.
- Do not use, turn on, or have visible any electronic devices. If you have a device for a learning purposes, please clear use with me ahead of time.
- Please use appropriate language for the classroom.

Instructional Support: I am available for tutorial or enrichment opportunities. The best way is to make an appointment in-class or by e-mail. Otherwise you can simply come by the classroom. If you are falling behind, are disorganized, or have missed classes, I may require your presence for instructional support.

Evaluation... Any work can be improved as long as you have made an honest attempt the first time it was handed in. Any quiz or test you miss for an excused reason must be made up immediately upon your return, and will likely be a different test based on the same learning outcomes. There is no final exam for Geography; however, I will give you my own "open binder" assessment of the Learning Outcomes. The final mark will be weighted as follows:

- Tests and quizzes- 20% of class grade
Tests and quizzes missed without an acceptable excuse will receive a score of "0"
- Assignments- 30% of class grade
- Projects - 30% of class grade
- Final Assessment- 20% of overall course grade

**Late assignments will be penalized. Plagiarized work will receive and automatic "0".*