

Geography

Mr. Tripodi
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www.mrtripodi.org

DESCRIPTION AND CONTENT

This course is designed to help develop geographical skills that will enable you to better understand and appreciate our part of the world, and many others. We explore the major topics of human geography through detailed case studies that show how demographic, environmental, cultural, social, political, and economic processes shape the geography of the world.

Additionally, a special emphasis is placed on the idea of place and distance in a fully wired, GPS-integrated, Twitter-enabled world. Software using satellite photos taken 20 miles above the earth can zoom in close enough to see if your lawn needs mowing. How does geography continue to change in the 21st Century?

How does where one is born dictate his likely livelihood? How does technology impact how we study the physical world? How do urban and rural living conditions dictate wildly variant belief sets, even within our own country? How do physical and cultural systems intertwine? These questions are the foci of this course.

PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

History:

- 8.1.12: Historical analysis/skills development
- 8.2.12: Pennsylvania history
- 8.3.12: United States history
- 8.4.12: World history

Geography:

- 7.1.12: Geographic literacy
- 7.2.12: Physical characteristics of places, regions
- 7.3.12: Human characteristics of places, regions
- 7.4.12: Interactions between people, places

RESOURCES

Class website: <http://www.mrtripodi.org>

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- **Folder or binder:** Students will receive many handouts, notetakers, supplemental readings, and content guides. It is the student's responsibility to collect these materials, and organize them as they see fit.
- **Pen or pencil:** Blue, black, or gray ink/lead only, please.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

1. **Student map portfolios** comprise roughly 40% of student grades. This ongoing project is due every Thursday, holiday-shortened weeks excluded. Students will independently collect, analyze, and interpret different types of maps and cartograms, building a portfolio that exemplifies that student's interest and perspective on the world.
2. **Homework and in-class assignments are** never "busy work." Consequently, everything assigned is chosen specifically to introduce or reinforce key ideas. A student's success hinges on completing homework and in-class work, and both should be taken quite seriously.
3. **Map competency quizzes** are given at least once every two weeks, usually at 25 points each. Occasionally one will be unannounced. It is the student's responsibility to stay on top of the material.
4. **Projects** are assigned once per grading period, and offer every student an opportunity to showcase his or her individual skills and creativity. Each project will be explained in depth upon assignment.

LATE WORK

I accept late work only until the Friday after which it is assigned. No late work will be accepted once the weekend has passed. Credit given for late work is half of what an on-time assignment would have been graded. *Homework submitted later the same day – or later in the class – is considered late.*

GRADING

According to district policies: A: 100-92%, B: 91-83%, C: 82-74%, D: 73-65%, E: below 65%. A 91.5% will be rounded to 92%. A 91.4% will be rounded to 91%.

CLASSROLL.COM

Assignments for each week will be noted online by the first school day of the week. Student grades will be updated online as soon as possible, depending on the length of the assignment.

Please monitor Classroll.com regularly. If your child is absent, this will also give you the opportunity to check on the assignment for that day. If you have lost your user classroll.com ID or password, please contact the high school office for a replacement.

MRTRIPODI.ORG

Assignments and class documents are **updated daily** at the class website, www.mrtripodi.org. This is a great convenience for many students and parents, but it also means that "I didn't know about the assignment" and "I lost my copy" are not acceptable excuses.

GUIDELINES/BEHAVIOR

We work bell-to-bell in my class. When the late bell rings, students should be quiet, in their seats, and ready to begin. All facets of the Blackhawk Student Handbook apply to this class. Classroom expectations include promptness, readiness to work, and respect for self, for others, and for the learning environment. In short, students should adhere to Blackhawk's Expect/Respect policy.

CONTACT

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You may reach me by telephone at 724-846-9600 or by email at tripodij@bsd.k12.pa.us