

**Mr. Afzal's 9th Grade Global Studies
Fall 2020**

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Course Codes and Sections

HGS41QMA-01, 06

HGS41QFA-05, 08

HGS41QMB-01, 06

HGS41QFB-05, 08

The goal of 9th Grade Global Studies is to help students become curious, informed global citizens positioned for future success and motivated to translate geographic awareness into action. Students will learn to assess and comprehend world events, global issues, and human interactions by applying geographic patterns and concepts. Global Studies uses a “thematic” approach to studying the world, in conjunction with the “regional approach” used in 8th grade Intro to Global Studies.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Unit 1- Thinking Geographically

[Unit 1 Standards](#)

Essential Questions:

1. What is geography?
2. Why does globalization make the study of geography so critical?
3. What tools do geographers use?
4. How are geographic locations both unique and connected?

Unit 2- Population Geography

[Unit 2 Standards](#)

Essential Questions:

1. How are human populations distributed around the world?
2. How does the Demographic Transition Model help explain population change?
3. How can population characteristics of different locations be compared?
4. How and why are people migrating internationally and domestically?
5. What are diasporic communities and how are they similar and different?

Unit 3- Cultural Geography

[Unit 3 Standards](#)

Essential Questions:

1. How do cultural traits spread?
 2. How are cultural and ethnic groups distributed in the U.S. and around the world and how are these patterns changing?
3. How do social, political and economic factors influence cultural landscapes?
4. What are the basic beliefs and practices of the world's major religions?
5. How do the roles and rights of women differ around the world?
6. How does globalization influence culture?

Unit 4- Political Geography

[Unit 4 Standards](#)

Essential Questions:

1. How do political systems differ?
2. How has the surface of the Earth been divided and organized?
3. How did countries of the developing world decolonize?
4. How did the Cold War influence the surface of the Earth?
5. How do cooperation and conflict between different groups of people continue to influence the surface of the Earth?
6. How do human rights differ around the world?

Unit 5- Economic Geography

[Unit 5 Standards](#)

Essential Questions:

1. How can we use geographic models to explain the locations of economic activities?
2. Which factors influence which goods and services are produced and where?
3. How does the physical environment affect human economic activities and how do human economic activities affect the environment?
4. Where are fossil fuels produced and consumed?
5. Why do countries trade?
6. How are the world's countries and regions connected economically?
7. How has industrial production changed over time?
9. How do oil and water resource issues impact the Middle East?
10. How have the economies of India and China emerged in the 21st century?
11. How do levels of economic development vary around the world and what is being done to address inequalities?

Unit 6- Agriculture Geography

[Unit 6 Standards](#)

Essential Questions:

1. How has agriculture changed over time?
2. Where in the world are major agricultural commodities produced and consumed?
3. What food related issues result from the questions listed above, and what can we do about it?

Unit 7- Urban Geography

[Unit 7 Standards](#)

Essential Questions:

1. Where are major cities located?
2. Which factors influence where cities are located?
3. Which factors influence whether cities grow or decline?
4. Which factors influence how cities are laid out and organized?
5. How do contemporary urban planners decide where to locate facilities?

FAQ's

Do I use Mr. Afzal's Google Classroom or Pupilpath to find information about this course?

Pupilpath is used school-wide for grading. However, although you can find current grades and assignments on pupilpath, a comprehensive and chronological display of the daily agenda, assignments, important test dates, and links to resources, are found on Mr. Afzal's Google Classroom, which is essentially the textbook for Global Studies. Each day's agenda is listed 2-5 days in advance.

What should I do if I miss class?

Try to get caught up beforehand if you know you are going to be absent. Almost all worksheets or assignments can be downloaded and printed from Google Classroom. Find those items and complete them ahead of time if possible. Notes can be gathered from another student. When you return to class explain to Mr. Afzal or your support teachers on what you have done to catch up and ask if there is anything else you should do.

How am I graded?

Formative (40%): Quizzes, Daily Work

Summative (60%): Unit Tests, Map Tests, Projects.

What is your late work policy?

Students are highly encouraged to turn in work on time. All work for each unit must be turned in before the summative test for full credit. After the summative, late work will be deducted points at teacher satisfaction depending on each student's situation. After the marking period, you will not be able to earn credit.

What is your policy on retakes?

Retakes or test corrections will be available after each unit test and on some quizzes will be available. In order to have an opportunity for a retake:

1. All missing work must have been completed **prior to the original test or quiz**
 2. The unit test **review guide must be completed to my satisfaction**
 3. You must set up a time to discuss questions you have not been able to answer **after studying thoroughly**
 4. The retake must **occur within 1 week** of the test, typically during Flex Time
- Only one retake of a quiz or test per semester
 - No retakes on Map Tests, Open-Note Quizzes or Open-note Tests

What is your policy on extra credit?

Extra credit is offered occasionally but should not be counted on to increase the grade. All points will be added to the "Extra Credit" column of the gradebook in IO Classroom (Skedula/ Pupilpath). Complete the assignments and then Extra Credit will be used.

What is your cell phone policy?

MHS has a school cell phone policy. In short, students may not have a cell phone on their person while in class, including during Flex Time (lunch). All phones will be collected when students enter the building in a secure bag and space for the day. No personal cell phones will be allowed into the building. If a student does not adhere to this rule, their phone will be confiscated for the day and a meeting will be requested with their parent.

What else should I know to help me be successful in this class?

First, come to class curious and ready to learn. Secondly, be respectful. Be disciplined and thorough in your classwork. Pay attention to global, national and local news. Try not to focus on the tests, but on learning the

concepts and applying it to the real world, since that is how you will use this knowledge in the future. Lastly, use Flex Time and Google Classroom for academic support and find motivated peers to join a study group.

CLASSROOM NEEDS

Each teacher has a budget for the year to purchase curriculum materials and supplies. That said, it is appreciated if you are willing to bring in any of the following: notebooks, pencils, pens, paper.

Thank you and have a great year!

Mr. Afzal

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.

- Mark Twain