**WORLD CULTURES**

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**Introduction**

Welcome to World Cultures! This year we will be learning about the world’s places, peoples and cultures. You will be creating projects, completing homework, writing essays, engaging in class discussions, working hard and having fun at the same time!

World Cultures will be organized by thematic units. Each unit will cover the geography, people, history, culture and current events of a particular region. The units are:

**FIRST SEMESTER** **SECOND SEMESTER**

Unit One: Introduction to Geography Unit Four: South Asia

Unit Two: Africa Unit Five: East Asia

Unit Three: Middle East Unit Six: Latin America

Unit Seven: Department Project

This year in World Cultures, our class may be viewing different feature films (both clips and multiple scenes). Hotel Rwanda, Promises, Whale Rider, Anthony Bourdain, and To Live, have very powerful messages and content; however, they do contain some violence and harsh language. If you have any questions about the films please contact us.

**Grading Procedures**

Your grade in World Cultures will be based on:

Performance: How you perform on tests, quizzes, papers, and projects

Preparation: How you keep an organized notebook and complete your homework. Participation: How you pay attention and provide meaningful classroom participation.

**Keys to Success in World Cultures**

10. Understand that what is right for you is not always popular and what is popular is not always right.

9. Know that everyone in our class is a learner and everyone is a teacher.

8. Be responsible for your actions, all of your actions and choices have consequences.

7. Believe in your ability and your peer’s abilities to learn and be successful.

6. Think of this class as a World Cultures team/family.

5. Accept nothing less than your best effort but understand that no one is perfect and mistakes are learning opportunities.

4. Live the Character Counts!

3. Understand that your semester grade is a reflection of an entire semester’s worth of work.

2. Be a proactive and prepared (pen/pencil, notebook or binder, folder) problem solver.

1. Participate in class and do your best to not take any opportunity for granted.

**Daily Procedures**

1. **Attendance:** Being present in class is a must. If you have to miss class for any reason be sure to ask a classmate what you have missed or checkout our online class space. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to get the information, notes and worksheets that you missed. I will NOT track you down to give you missed work!
2. **Make-up Work:** You are required to make up work if you are absent. For every day you were absent, you are given two days to complete the work. If you missed a test you must set up a time to make it up. I will not hunt you down to schedule a make-up time. It is YOUR responsibility to make up work. If work is not made up within two weeks, it will result in a zero.
3. **Late Work:** Late work will be accepted for HALF CREDIT. If you are absent the day a project is due you must get it in the next day.
4. **DON’T FORGET**: Every assignment you turn in must have your name and a proper heading (name, date, period).
5. Organizational Tip: File papers away in your folder/ binder when you get them! Do not use your book as an organizational tool. I will not have extra copies of worksheets for you.

**Classroom Expectations**

The pillars of Character Counts should be demonstrated at all times. Respecting your classmates, yourself, Ms. Doyle, and Mr. Hartman is the number one rule in our class. Here’s some other things to keep in mind:

1. Be in the class and ready to learn when the bell rings. Tardy Policy: Get to class on time! If you are not in the room by the time the bell rings, you will be sent to a tardy station.
2. Consumption of food and drinks will be kept to a minimum. We share our classroom with other teachers. We will allow you to have food/ drinks/ candy as long as it does not become a problem. Please clean up after yourself and RECYCLE PLASTIC BOTTLES AND CANS.
3. Have all phones and iPods put away when the bell rings. Please make sure phones are all OFF(not just on silent). NO TEXTING IN CLASS!!! It’s just not cool and it’s an automatic write up. The Dean’s office will handle all electronics policy use violations.
4. Ask for a pass to the bathroom when there is down time or when we are working in groups. You will need to fill out your Hallway Passport for us to sign.
5. Do not pack up before the bell rings. (and yes, that means sneaking stuff in your backpack or closing your book) You’ll have plenty of time to get to your next class. Be respectful of your classmates and teachers by waiting! Wait until I say “have a great day” before you pack up. :)

**Skills We Will Develop**

1. Understand how specific **details support** the main idea in non-fiction, fiction, primary and secondary sources, charts, graphs and art.
2. Understand the **cause and effect** relationships of specific topic.
3. **Compare and contrast** people, events and ideas.
4. Create **generalizations and conclusions** using historical information and personal experiences.
5. Develop and support clear and convincing **claim statements** in informative and argumentative writing.
6. Develop and strengthen our ability to listen, speak and collaborate.

**Assessments of Learning vs. Assessments for Learning**

***Assessments OF learning will***

* Always be worth points.
* Occur during or at the end of units.
* Take the form of tests, quizzes, essays, or projects.

***Assessments FOR learning will***

* Not always worth points, however, the concepts in the assignments will be on assessments of learning.
* Provide opportunities to practice and develop skills more than acquire content knowledge.

***A Total Point System Will Be Used***

* Test, quizzes, essays, and projects will range between 25 and 100 points
* Homework and participation will range between 1 and 20 points.

**Required Materials**

1. World Cultures Textbook

2. World Atlas (purple)

3. Notebook/ Binder [You must maintain a “notebook” during the entire year. That can be a binder or a folder and notebook. You are expected to keep all notes, handouts, study guides etc. in your “notebook.”

4. Additional materials (markers, colored pencils) will be supplied by the teacher, but a student may bring their own when we work on maps or in class projects.

**Hinsdale Central Honor Code**

***Teachers Will***

1. Create a classroom environment conducive to learning.
2. Respect the abilities of all students to learn and study to the best of their ability.
3. Encourage positive participation among all students in safe educational environment.
4. Encourage a dialogue of discussion that is open, honest and fair.
5. Be clear in their advocacy of academic integrity and attempt to employ strategies that reduce the opportunity for dishonesty
6. Manage the classroom environment and curriculum that promotes a fair, honest, and accountable participation.

***Students will***

1. Trust each other enough to be forthright in preparation and participation in all educational endeavors.
2. Respect their peers and teachers.
3. Take responsibility for their actions in that a fair and honest curriculum is available to all students.
4. Engage in open, honest and fair discussion during the course of one’s education.
5. Take pride in their learning as the representation of their coursework signifies that care has been taken in its formation and the integrity with which it was created demonstrates value in its undertaking.
6. Give full and proper credit for all sources of work submitted and/or presented.

**NOTE TO PARENT(S) / GUARDIAN(S):** We strongly believe that it is important that we work together to help your student be successful this year. There are a lot of changes for Freshmen and it is truly a year of growth. Your student will gain independence, confidence and greater mastery of skill over the course of the year. Please feel free contact me with questions about assignments, curriculum, or your student’s progress. Please allow a 24 business hour turn around for emails and phone messages. In addition, you have access to your student’s grades on Home Access Center. All worksheets (including the unit calendar), notes and information is electronically linked to our online class space.

Please sign below, along with your student, to acknowledge that you understand the syllabus and give consent to your child watching the videos listed on the first page. Signatures due Friday, August 29th.

**Student’s Name (Printed)**

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**Student’s Signature Date**

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**Parent’s/ Guardian’s Signature Date**

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