

Geography



"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
— William Butler Yeats

Introduction

To thrive in an increasingly interconnected world, Nebraska's next generation of citizens must be fluent in spatial knowledge. High school geography equips students to understand the world and their role within it. More than simply asking "Where?", geography challenges students to explore the *why* and *how* behind our planet's human and physical features. Using 21st-century technologies and inquiry-based research, students will expand their understanding of geographic concepts and develop the ability to think critically about global and local issues. By analyzing spatial patterns and relationships across time and place, they will gain the insight needed to make sense of both the past and present—while building the skills necessary to address the challenges of the future.

Course Overview

Geography is a semester course.

Topics to Discuss:

- Foundations of Geography (Exploring geographic tools, themes, and perspectives)
- Physical Features and Earth's Systems (Understanding landforms, water systems, and natural processes)
- Human Geography and Culture (Examining population, migration, culture, and human activity)
- Political and Economic Geography (Analyzing borders, governments, trade, and development)
- Regional Geographic Issues (Connecting world regions through case studies and current events)

Learning Goals

The following goals will guide our learning and growth in this history class.

- Develop Historical Writing Proficiency
- Strengthen Reading Comprehension of Historical Texts
- Enhance Critical Thinking and Historical Analysis
- Improve Organization and Information Management

Required Supplies

Each student needs to bring the following:

| Supply | Use |
|--|--|
| 5 - subject notebook OR a 1.5" Binder (if using binder, please include 5-tab dividers and loose lined paper for each section) | In this class, we will use a 5-subject notebook or binder as our primary learning tool. This notebook will be used every day and is required for participation and grading . |
| Plastic 2-pocket folder | This will be kept with our notebook/binder to hold handouts, ongoing projects or assignments, and graded work. Your folder is where you will keep handouts or graded work. |
| Writing Utensils | Students will use a <u>pencil</u> every day . Other utensils such as highlighters, colored pencils and pens are optional, and if pertinent to the lesson will be provided by the teacher. |
| Kleenex | We go through Kleenex like they're going out of style. Please allow your child to bring at least 1 box for classroom use throughout the semester. |

Grading Categories and Weights

| Category | Weight |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Portfolio (Notebook/Binder) | 30% |
| Tests/Major Projects | 30% |
| Assignments/Classwork | 20% |
| Quizzes | 20% |

Technology Policies

This classroom is designed for focused, hands-on learning with minimal distractions. Please read the following expectations carefully:

| Technology | Acceptable Uses | Consequence |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Cell Phone | None; phones must be left in students backpack and remain in the hallway during class. | 1 st warning is given on the first day of school. 2 nd offense will result in a 30-minute detention with the teacher. 3 rd offense will result in admin. referral. |
| School issued iPad | Will be used for substitute days or to catch up on missing work outside of the classroom. There will be occasions when the iPad is required for class - your teacher will let you know when it is appropriate. | Bringing your iPad into class without permission will result in the device being taken away for the remainder of the class. Repeat offenders will be referred to admin. |
| Ear buds | None; music must be accessed from a device, therefore these are not necessary or permitted in the classroom. | 1 st warning is given on the first day of school. 2 nd offense will result in a 30-minute detention with the teacher. 3 rd offense will result in admin. referral. |

Absent Work Policy

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- **Excused Absences:** Students get **one extra school day for every day missed** to turn in assignments without penalty.
- **Unexcused Absences:** Work is due **the next day** and may receive a late penalty.
- **Responsibility:** Students must check the **class website/Google Classroom** or **absent work folder** for missed assignments and see the teacher for clarification.
- **Tests/Quizzes:** Must be made up within **3 days** of returning unless prior arrangements are made.
- If you are absent from class please see **Google Classroom** for notes, exit tickets, or any other assignments/resources. Daily activities will be **logged in the Calendar tab** for your convenience.
- **Google Classroom code:** [gvv7pnbr](#)

Late Work Policy

Full Credit Window

- Work turned in **1 day late** may receive up to a **10% deduction**.

Reduced Credit Window

- Work turned in **2–5 days late** may receive up to a **30% deduction**.

After 5 Days

- Work submitted **more than 5 days late** will only be accepted for a **maximum of 65% credit**.

Major Projects & Essays

- Major assignments may lose **10% per day late**, with a maximum penalty of **50%**.
- Students are encouraged to make arrangements ahead of time if an extension is needed.

Special Circumstances

- Students with **IEPs, 504 plans, or documented emergencies** receive accommodations.
- **Communication is key** – students must **email or speak with the teacher** if they anticipate a delay – asking for an extension is perfectly acceptable, however please be respectful and responsible. Lack of communication will result in a lack of grace.

Backpacks

- **Backpacks** – Backpacks are **not necessary in the classroom**, and cause the room to be cluttered. To mitigate this issue, we will be leaving backpacks in the **300-hallway** in front of the **blue lockers**. You will have space in the classroom to leave your binder/notebook.

Questions or concerns

Amanda Deal

amanda.deal@lexschools.org or through **TalkingPoints**

(308) 324-4681 ext. 2113

Available before/after school and also during my plan period (9:45 - 10:30).

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Your child's success is highly reliant on your support and participation in their learning experience.

Syllabus Acknowledgement

Please sign and date on the lines below to acknowledge that you have read the syllabus and understand the policies that will be enforced in this classroom.

Parent: _____

Date: _____

Student: _____

Date: _____

[Notice: Credit cannot be given for the Syllabus Acknowledgement if I cannot read your signature.]