



World Cultures Syllabus 2018-19

Mrs. Julie Mitchell
Room 24
bengalfrosh.com or
hhs.helenaschools.org/teachers/jmitchell
324-2271

COURSE DESCRIPTION

World Cultures is a class designed to explore other cultures around the world from a variety of viewpoints. Students will explore the interaction and impact of government, demographics, economics, the environment/geography and culture on people in various regions of the world. Students will also investigate contemporary events and how those events connect to history. Students will be expected to participate respectfully in discussion, think critically, and write in a clear and concise manner. The first semester will be focused on Europe, Africa and the Middle East while the second semester will focus on Russia, Asia, Latin America, and Native American tribes in Montana.

Students will use the TCI textbook and "Contemporary Human Geography" textbook in class at times as well as other materials such as articles, documentaries, guest speakers, and educational websites. Class participation is expected and will be graded. Possible homework, activities and assessments will include: group and individual projects, reading, notetaking, annotating, blogging, writing, research, document-based questions, debates, close-reads, and oral presentations.

BENGAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Be Responsible

- a. Come to class prepared and be on time.
- b. Complete and turn in your assignments.
- c. Use your daily planner and keep a binder with notes, handouts and work.
- d. Use technology appropriately.
- e. Utilize the class website for materials, upcoming due dates, and what you missed while absent.
- f. Know and follow the HHS Academic Integrity Policy.

2. Be Involved

- a. Actively participate in class, actively listen, try and ask questions!
- b. Join a club or an activity.
- c. Ask for help!
- d. You are responsible for getting materials and homework when you are absent.

3. Be Respectful

- a. Always use respectful language.
- b. Support your classmates' education.
- c. Take care of classroom technology
- d. Maintain personal space.
- e. Park your cell phone in the cell phone garage or backpack when you arrive in class.
- f. Communicate with me if you are having a conflict someone in the class, including me.

4. Be a Graduate

- a. Take pride in your work.
- b. Set a goal and go for it.
- c. Advocate for yourself! Utilize all supports that are provided by our school or community.

Our classroom is a place where every student can thrive, learn and be respected by peers and staff.

COMMUNICATION – Be an advocate for yourself!!

Students are encouraged to bring questions or concerns to Mrs. Mitchell in person or via email. If you have a question about a grade, an assignment or anything else regarding World Cultures, please speak with Mrs. Mitchell.

WEEKLY AGENDA AND ASSIGNMENTS

A weekly agenda is posted on the Assignment Board in the classroom (the agenda is subject to change). **Students and parents can also access an online calendar, daily assignments, lecture notes and classroom updates on my website.**

TECHNOLOGY

1. **Students are expected to turn off and park all their devices** in the cell phone garage (with charging station) or their backpacks upon arriving in class.
2. **Students are expected to use Mrs. Mitchell's website, our Moodle classroom and their Microsoft 365 email accounts.** Mrs. Mitchell will be providing instruction on these platforms at the beginning of the year.
3. **Students are expected to know how to access PowerSchool** and to help their parent/guardian set up an account.

GRADING

1. There will be daily, weekly, and quarterly work both in class and at home. Students will be expected to use complete sentences on assignments unless otherwise directed.
2. Most homework and class work is designed through level questioning based on Bloom's Taxonomy and Common Core expectations.
3. Classroom participation is expected and will be graded.
4. Writing formats will include: Free Response/Document Based responses, summaries, argumentative paragraphs, informational paragraphs and/or research papers.
 - a. Particular attention will be given to teaching students to use 2 column notes; correct topic and thesis statements, MLA format, in text citations and full MLA citations.
5. There will be quizzes, unit tests and semester tests. Each quarter is worth 45% of a student's semester grade and the semester test is 10% of semester grade.
6. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY.** Please read the Academic Integrity policy. There is a link to the policy from my website, hhs.helenaschools.org/teachers/jmitchell.
7. **Extra Credit** – I am not a fan of extra credit. If you do the work as it's assigned and turn it in on time, you will have no need of extra credit. However, I understand that sometimes it is necessary. Your "Life Happens" passes will be the majority of your extra credit, but occasionally I will provide more opportunities. Please do not ask me for extra credit.

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
below 60%
mandatory make-up

LATE WORK

1. You will receive a 30% deduction for work turned in one week after the due date. You will receive no credit for assignments turned in after one week with the exception of using the "Life Happens" passes.
2. You will be given "**Life Happens**" passes each semester (two for each of the first two quarters, and then three for the whole of second semester) that you may use to turn in a late assignment for full credit up to one week before grades are due for the quarter.
3. **If you have passes left** at the end of the semester, you can turn them in for extra credit. My advice is to turn all assignments in on time so that you may receive extra credit.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENTEE POLICY

1. **If you are absent, you will have the number of days which you were gone plus one more to make up any missing work.** Now that you are in high school, it is your responsibility to ask for missing work.
2. **I follow the school's policy on tardies:** once you have reached 3 tardies, the penalty is a lunch detention with me (or a consequence of equal value). Every tardy after that will be reported to your administrator.

FILMS

There are a variety of relevant documentaries and films used throughout this course. Please let me know if you have any questions about films.

Syllabus subject to change at Mrs. Mitchell's discretion.

By signing and initialing this page, we are confirming that we have read and understood all aspects of the World Cultures 2018-19 syllabus.

This page must be turned in to Mrs. Mitchell by September 5th to receive full credit (10 points).

Initial each box below to confirm that you have read and understood each aspect of the World Cultures syllabus.

Policy	Student Initial	Parent Initial
I understand that I must come to class prepared and bring all necessary materials.		
I understand that if I am absent, I am responsible for asking for my missing work. I also know how many days I have to complete the work.		
I understand that I am not to have my phone out in class unless directed to do so and any violations will result in turning my phone into the office - use of "Life Happens" passes may result in an exception to this rule		
I understand that cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated and any violations will result in an automatic zero and a discipline referral.		
I understand that extra credit will be rare and I should just do the work as it is assigned to get the grade I want.		
I have reviewed Mrs. Mitchell's schedule and know where I can find her during her free periods. I have also reviewed her email address.		
I have logged on to both Power School and Mrs. Mitchell's website to make sure I know where to find important information on assignments and grades.		

Late Work Policy***	Student Initial	Parent Initial
I understand that I may only turn in late work up to one week after the due date and will receive an automatic 30% deduction – use of "Life Happens" passes may result in an exception to this rule		

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

I would like to receive World Cultures email updates throughout the year at this email address (print clearly):
