

Geographical Issues of the 21st Century

Ms. Basson

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Overview

Geography 20F is a required course for high school graduation in Manitoba. It focuses upon Canada, its place in the world, and its relationships to other countries.

Course Objectives

Students will explore and develop a greater understanding of the following:

- The diversity of geographical features and human activities throughout Canada and the world
- The influence of our physical environments on human activity
- Implications of urbanization for people and the environments
- The effects of human activities upon the environment

The following is intended as a general outline of the course. The purpose here is to provide you with a framework in which we will work. The course is organized around the five following thematic units:

Unit 1: Geographic Literacy

- Map skills, exploring physical and human geography; global environment types; importance of environmental stewardship; ecological footprint

Unit 2: Natural Resources

- Variety, location and use of various resources; resource development and sustainability issues (i.e. water and forestry)

Unit 3: Food from the Land

- Where and how food is produced, and how that has changed over time; major issues in agriculture (i.e. sustainability, GMOs, factory farms)

Unit 4: Industry and Trade

- How industry is organized and where it is located; current issues related to globalization and the impacts of our consumer choices

Unit 5: Urban Places

- The social and organizational complexity of cities; environmental issues (i.e. urban sprawl, water/waste disposal)

Course Survival Guide

The object of this course is for you to gain some insight into the course concepts. Ultimately, you should be able to go beyond just 'knowing the facts', and also be able to apply this knowledge by thinking critically and creatively. A general rule: always strive to *understand* the material and its *connections* to everyday life (don't just memorize a bunch of factual "tid-bits").

The following are a few other major items that will help clarify how this class is going to be organized.

#1 **IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE IN THE COURSE, GET HELP!** Talk to me about what areas you are finding difficult. Ask questions when you don't understand. Come see me or email me after class if you can't speak up during class.

#2 **NOTEBOOKS:** If you miss a class, it is *your* responsibility to catch up on any notes, worksheets, and films. Even if you are away, you are still responsible for homework.

#3 **TESTING/PRESENTATIONS:** if you know ahead of time that you will be away, it is your responsibility to let me know as soon as possible, so an alternative date can be set. Otherwise, **PLAN TO BE THERE!**

Unexplained absences result in a zero, and I do not give retests or alternative presentation times. If you are sick on the day, a parent/guardian needs to notify me by phone so that I know about your absence in advance.

The **test or presentation must be done on the day you arrive back at school.** You will always be given plenty of notice of upcoming unit tests (at least a week).

#4 **HOMEWORK – DO IT!** This is the best advice I can give you. Not everything we do in class will be taken in to be marked, but this is not an invitation to miss the work. Homework is important because it will strengthen your understanding of the course material. I expect homework to be completed.

#5 **ASSIGNMENTS: All assignments are due on the date that is given.** Pay attention to the white board where all due dates for assignments will be posted.

Late assignments: Students must talk to their teacher **ahead** of the due date if they need an extension, if not, the original due date stands. To hand in an assignment late, a redo/retake form must be filled out. Assignments will only be accepted during that unit/topic. Plagiarism will result in a zero, so please, complete your own work.

There will be a cut-off date before each report card for assignments, which will be posted on the white board.

According to the Provincial Assessment Policy (2015), "Evidence of student achievement is collected over time from three different sources— observations, conversations, and student products (p.6)." Using multiple sources of evidence increases the reliability and validity of the assessment of student achievement.

Students are expected to communicate their academic progress (assignments, tests, quizzes, etc.) with their parents/guardians using the school's portal on an ongoing and regular basis. It is not appropriate to contact the teacher at the end of the semester after final due dates about missing or incomplete assessments.

Students are responsible for keeping up with assignments using the classroom white board and Power School.

#6 **PARTICIPATION / ATTITUDE:** It's really simple...be nice and use common sense. **ABSOLUTELY NO CELLPHONES IN CLASS** – this means no charging cellphones as well. Please keep headphones out of sight as well.

#7 **ATTENDANCE / LATES:** The school policy will be followed. If lates or absences become chronic, or if they interfere with the classroom environment, consequences will follow.

#8 **GRADING:** Your final grade will be determined as follows:
Term work: 80% (includes quizzes and tests (40%) and projects, daily work, etc (40%)
Exam: 20% (there is one cumulative exam at the end of the semester for all students)

Most importantly, treat everyone (adults and students) with respect. Let's have a great semester!