

# Advanced World Geography

Course Description

2009-2010

**Mrs. Jaso**

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Web site: <http://teacherweb.com/FL/BookerMS/HobbaJ/>

Welcome to World Geography! In my Social Studies classroom we use the *Geography Alive!* program. Students will be active participants instead of passive observers, experiencing geography through dramatic role playing, creative simulations, dynamic group projects, and writing from different perspectives. This year we will be covering the regions and people of **Canada and the United States, Latin America, and Europe and Russia**. Students will be creatively challenged to use the tools of geography to view, analyze, and understand the world around them. The mapping labs and the program's case-study approach turn students into geographic thinkers. The *Geography Alive!* materials were designed to deal with topics objectively, respectfully, and in accordance with standards set throughout the country. Below you will find some information regarding the course and its content. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade World Geography Standards

### Standard 1 – Focusing Skills and Knowledge

- Students will analyze and interpret geographical and historical information from maps, graphs, timelines, and primary and secondary sources.

### Standard 2 – Geography

- Students will analyze and examine the following:
  - The interrelationships of geography and human activities in all different regions
  - The physical geography and the regional influences of North America, Latin America, Europe and Russia

### Standard 3 – Culture

- Students will recognize and understand the following:
  - The factors that influence the development of culture characteristics
  - Characteristics of North American cultures, Latin American cultures, and the cultures of Europe and Russia

### Standard 4 – History

- Students will be able to recognize how major historical events influenced the development of North America, Latin America, Europe and Russia.

### Standard 5 – Economics

- Students will be able to recognize and describe the impact of economics decisions, factors that influence consumer decisions and institutions that are a part of a market economy.

## History Fair

ALL students will be required to participate in the History Fair. The History Fair will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Independent Learning Project. This year's theme is ***Innovation in History: Impact and Change***. You will find an explanation of this year's theme on my class web site <http://teacherweb.com/FL/BookerMS/HobbaJ/>. For more information, please visit <http://www.nationalhistoryday.org>.

## Expectations

Students are expected to come to class organized and prepared. All assignments are expected to receive 100% attention and effort. Students are expected to respect the classroom materials and environment. Most importantly, students are expected to make good choices.

## Plagiarism

According to Random House, Inc., plagiarism is "the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work." Access to technology makes it easier to copy the work of others. Students will learn what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it. A good rule to follow: If there are three words in a row that someone else can claim, cite it. Plagiarism is stealing and cheating and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is against Sarasota County School's Code of Ethics and is against the law. Copying from a classmate is unacceptable on any classwork, homework assignments and individual assessments. If a student is caught plagiarizing, there will be an E-Mail or phone call home, and credit will not be given for the assignment/assessment. Opportunity to redo the assignment/assessment will be given, however, a second offense may warrant a 0% for the assignment/assessment.

## Course Outline

### **August**

Course Introduction and Preview  
Review of the *Tools of Geography*  
*Canada and the United States*  
Geography of Canada

### **September**

*Canada and the United States*  
Geography - continued  
*Settlement Patterns and Ways of Life in Canada*  
*The Great Lakes*

### **October**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Independent Learning Project Due  
*Canada and the United States*  
*The Great Lakes - continued*  
*Urban Sprawl in North America*  
*National Parks*  
History Fair Preparation

### **November**

*Canada and the United States*  
*Consumption Patterns in the United States*  
*Migration to the United States*  
History Fair Preparation  
Comprehensive Exam on Canada and the United States

### **December**

*Latin America*  
Geography of Latin America  
*Spatial Inequality in Mexico City*  
History Fair Preparation  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Independent Learning Projects Due

### **January**

*Latin America*  
*Indigenous Cultures*  
*Dealing with Extreme Weather*  
*Land Use Conflict in the Amazon Rainforest*

### **February**

*Latin America*  
*Land Use Conflict in the Amazon Rainforest – continued*  
*Life in the Central Andes*  
Comprehensive Exam on Latin America  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Independent Learning Project Due  
*Europe and Russia*  
Geography of Europe and Russia

### **March**

*Europe and Russia*  
Geography of Europe and Russia - continued  
*Supranational Cooperation with the European Union*  
*Population Dilemmas in Europe*

### **April**

*Europe and Russia*  
*Invisible Borders*  
*Russia's Varied Landscape*  
*New Nation-States from the Old Soviet Empire*

### **May**

*Europe and Russia*  
Europe and Russia Comprehensive Exam  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Independent Learning Project Due  
Final Exam  
Career Education

## Course Materials

- 1 – **two inch** binder w/ clear overlay
- 1 – 3-ring binder pencil case
- loose-leaf notebook paper
- 1 – package of 5-tab insertable dividers
- Post-It Notes
- 1 – package of hole reinforcements, self-adhesive

- 1 – small pencil sharpener
- 2 – package of pens (blue or black)
- 1 – box of pencils
- 1 – box of colored pencils or markers
- 1 – plastic/durable, 3 prong, 2 pocket folder
- 1 – package of sugar-free peppermints

### Grading Breakdown

Boardwork – 10%  
Binder – 10%  
Classwork – 25%  
Tests – 25%  
Projects – 30%

### Grading Scale

A = 100% - 90%  
B = 89% - 80%  
C = 79% - 70%  
D = 69% - 60%  
F = 59% - Below

**\*Late work will result in a 10 point penalty.** All projects will be graded using a rubric. Specific rubrics will be provided when the project is assigned. Students will be aware of the expectations for all assignments in advance.

Please sign to acknowledge that you have read and understand the Course Description for Advanced World Geography.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_