**World History and Geography**

**Grade 9**

**Student Expectations**

*Be prepared and on time*. This means homework should already be turned in to the basket, you are in your assigned seat, and you are working on the warm-up when class begins at 10:30 am, or immediately following student meeting. You will have 10 minutes to complete the warm-up.

You are in high school now! This means we will expect even more maturity from you. This means *respectful behavior and language* towards everyone in the classroom to create a caring classroom community. This is especially important in a social studies class, so that we can learn from one another’s life experiences and points of view.

*Active participation* is expected in class. This includes taking active notes, asking questions, engaging in class discussions, staying on task.

**Notebook Checks**

Three times during the semester, we will be having notebook checks. You are expected to have your warm-ups, journal entries, class notes, and homework assignments in your notebooks.

**Books:** Each student will be assigned a World Atlas and be expected to take care of it throughout the year.

**Required materials:**

-Pen (black or blue)

-Spiral Notebook

-Folder for keeping handouts and readings

**Grading Policy:**

Unexcused late work will only be worth half credit and must be turned in during the current unit. See me if you miss a class, so you know what to make up.

Assessments (Projects, Tests, Quizzes) 30%

Notebook Checks (Including Warm-Ups and Class Notes) 20%

Participation 20%

Homework and Class Assignments 30%

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| **FALL SEMESTER 2014** | |
| **Unit I: Origins of Humans: Major Features of the Earth** | |
| Week 1 - 4   * What are the major regions and features of the Earth? * Map Skills Toolkit * Where do humans fit in deep time? * Essay Questions: Are humans fundamentally different from animals?   What are feedback loops and how do feedback loops impact your life and relationships? (give 3 examples)  In your opinion, was life better for the average person before or after the Neolithic Revolution? |  |
| **Unit II: River Valley Civilizations: Egypt and Mesopotamia** | |
| Week 5 -8   * Where did the first civilizations arise, and why? * Why is Egypt called “the gift of the Nile”? * Why would hunter-gatherers not be able to have built the pyramids? * What is your relationship with death and dying? Do the pyramids represent a society obsessed with death and dying, or in fact, the opposite? * What were the common characteristics between the early civilizations? |  |
| **Unit III: Classical Civilizations: Greece and Rome** | |
| Week 9 - 12   * **Sparta** Lab**:** How do the Spartan views on education, children, women, sexuality, and discipline differ from our own? * **Athens:** What does the Plato’s “Parable of the Cave” mean?Teach me something using the Socratic dialogue!Greek Tragedy: What are the important elements of Greek Tragedy?What is your life script? How can you change it? Do you believe in fate or free will? Life scripts and *Boyz N the Hood* * Alexander the Great as a psychopath? * **Rome** * Rome: What government did Romans choose after dethroning their king in 503 BC? * How did Rome spread culture during the “Pax Romana”? * How could Rome, a city in Italy, take over and rule Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East for 500 years? * Why did the Roman Empire collapse? |  |
| Week 16  FINALS WEEK |  |