**Social 8 World Geography**

**Course Syllabus**

My name is Sean Smith and I am a teacher in the Aitkin High School Social Studies Department. I am looking forward to an exciting and interesting school year here at Aitkin High School. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and some of my expectations for the upcoming school year. I would also like to provide a brief outline of some of the topics and information we will be covering during the term. Please take a few moments to read and sign this outline so that I can ensure that all students and parents/guardians are clear on what to expect from this course.

**Class Rules:**

1. Be on time and prepared to work. If you are not in your desk when the bell rings you are tardy. Bring appropriate materials for class.
2. Treat everyone with respect. In order to get respect you need to give respect.
3. Raise your hand to talk.
4. No eating in class. Water is allowed and water only.
5. All rules in the Aitkin High School Student Handbook apply in this class.

**Consequences:**

1. Warning
2. Conference with student
3. Contact parents
4. Referral to Administration
5. Conference with parents

**Grading Scale:**

Grades will be calculated on a point scale averaged from three different categories; homework, projects, and tests/quizzes. The percentage breakdown:

**Homework: 50%, Projects: 25%, Tests/Quizzes: 25%**

**Letter Grades:**

A =95% and above C =74-76%

1. =90-94% C- =70-73%

B+ =87-89% D+ =67-69%

B =84-86% D =64-66%

1. =80-83% D- =60-63%

C+ =77-79% F =59% and below

**Notebooks:** Each student will be expected to maintain **two (2)** notebooks. One notebook will be used for notes and contain such items as test/quiz reviews, maps, and other important documents. The other notebook will be for our daily warm-ups. Students will be told what they are expected to keep in their notebooks. The notebooks will be excellent resources for the students as occasionally they will be allowed to use them on tests or quizzes. It would be in the best interest of the students to maintain up to date notebooks and keep them with them as they are **not** allowed to use another student’s notes during a test or quiz.

**Late Work:** Students are expected to turn all work in on the date assigned. Failure to do so is a serious deficiency. Work that is turned in late will be deducted by 20% for each day it is late. Even if assignments are past five (5) days late students are still expected to turn in **all assignments**. If a student has an excusedabsence it is **their** responsibility to get the make-up assignment. Students can ask a trustworthy friend or talk to me to find out what he/she missed. After any absence students should make arrangements to get any missed notes from a classmate. Students that are absent from a quiz or test need to make up that work within **one week** of their return. I like to get student work corrected and handed back as quickly as I can and it is simply not fair for other students to have to wait because some students haven’t taken the time to complete an assignment.

**Course Topics:** Throughout the year we will be covering a wide variety of cultures, climates, regions and people. Specific subjects covered will include the geographic features of the different continents of the world and how those features relate to the civilizations living there, the history of different cultures and people, interactions between people, economic activities, religions, gender roles, and changes from past to present. Most of the culture, traditions, laws and government that we know today is based on the ideas and achievements of early civilizations. By studying the history and origins of these civilizations my goal is to educate students to have a better understanding of how these places and achievements have affected us today.

**Topics/Regions:**

5 Themes of Geography Russia & “Stans” U.S. & Canada

Western Europe East Asia South Asia

Eastern Europe Africa Latin America

**Required Materials:**

Pen/Pencil, 2 Notebooks – (\*Every Day\*). Colored Pencils, Black Fine-Tipped Marker

Students will also be expected to cover their textbooks by the end of the 1st week of class

Students that need or would like extra help are encouraged to talk to me to make arrangements. Please feel free to contact me at school with any questions or concerns that you may have. My number is (218)927-2115 ext. 108 or by email at [ssmith@aitkin.k12.mn.us](mailto:ssmith@aitkin.k12.mn.us). If I am unavailable when you call please leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. Thank you and I look forward to an amazing year.

Please sign and date the following:

Student (Print) Teacher Mr. Smith

Parent or Guardian Date