

# World Cultures

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Dustin Richters and I will be your instructor for World Cultures. Please take a moment to read and sign this syllabus so that you will know what is expected of you this year. This syllabus will outline classroom expectations, grading, materials you are expected to bring to class, and a brief outline of the topics we will cover this year. I look forward to sharing this school year with you and with your cooperation we can make this an excellent year.

## Classroom Rules:

- Follow the Student Behavior Expectations as listed in your student handbooks.
- Respect our classroom; this includes *everything* and *everyone* in it.
- Please ask if you need to leave the classroom. Sign out EVERY time you leave the room.
- NO CELL PHONES! I *will* take them away! This is explained in your student handbook.
- No eating in class. I will allow water bottles in class, but if it becomes a distraction I will take away this privilege.
- Raise your hand to talk.

## Grading Scale:

I will average your final grade from four different categories: homework, projects, participation and tests/quizzes. Each category will be worth a certain percent of your final grade.

**Homework = 40%**

**Tests/Quizzes = 30%**

**Projects = 20%**

**Participation = 10%**

## Participation Grades

Participation grades will be based on bringing the required materials to class, arriving to class on time, participating in discussions, appropriate behavior in the classroom, and turning in assignments on time.

## Letter Grades:

A = 94% and above

A- = 90-93%

B+ = 87-89%

B = 84-86%

B- = 80-83%

C+ = 77-79%

C = 74-76%

C- = 70-73%

D+ = 67-69%

D = 64-66%

D- = 60-63%

F = 59% and below

## Late Work Policy:

- Students are expected to turn in all work on the days assigned. Late work will have 50% of the points deducted from the total points possible. If the assignment is more than one week late it will receive a zero. If a student has an excused absence it is **their responsibility** to get the missed assignment. After any absence the student should talk to me, or ask a friend, to find out what he/she missed. Any missed notes should be attained from a classmate. Missed

tests and quizzes need to be made up within **two days** of the absence or risk a failing grade on the activity.

- Students with excused absences will have two days per day absent to make up missing work with no late penalty as stated in the student handbook.

**Notebooks:** Each student will be expected to maintain a binder/notebook. The notebook will be an excellent resource for students and will contain items such as tests, quizzes, maps and important documents. Students will be told what they are expected to keep in their notebook. *Occasionally* students will be allowed to use their notebooks on quizzes, so it would be in their best interests to keep their notebooks with them, as they will **not** be allowed to use another student's notes during these quizzes.

### **Course Topics:**

Throughout the year we will be covering a variety of regions and cultures. Subjects and issues covered will include the history of regions and peoples, including items such as their cultures, economic activities, religions, interactions with other groups, gender roles, and changes from past to present. American culture and traditions, not to mention the laws and government, are based upon the ideas and achievements of these early civilizations. By studying the history and origins of these topics I hope students will have a better understanding of these places and their role in shaping the society of the United States today.

### **Regions/topics we will be covering in class include:**

Basic Geography Skills

Africa

Middle East

South Asia

East Asia

Southeast Asia

Latin America

### **What I expect you to bring to class EVERY DAY:**

- Pencil and pen
- Notebook/Binder
- Textbook
- Folder for handouts and assignments **unless you are using a binder or notebook with a folder**

Not Required But Recommended:

- Colored Pencils
- Black, Fine-Tipped Marker

### **\*\*\*Special Note:**

I would advise you to avoid using text notations in any of your work. This annoys most teachers and if I see it I will be ROFIF (Rolling On Floor In Frustration).

Any student that needs or wants extra help is encouraged to talk to me to make those arrangements. Feel free to contact me at the school with any questions or concerns. My number at the school is (218)927-2115 ext. 3108 or you may contact me through email at [drichters@aitkin.k12.mn.us](mailto:drichters@aitkin.k12.mn.us). I prefer to be contacted by email. Thank you.

Please read the following statement and acknowledge that you have reviewed the syllabus. Also, have a parent or guardian review the syllabus and sign as well. Turn in this page of the syllabus to Mr. Richters no later than the following Monday. Consider this your first assignment for the course.

*I have reviewed the preceding syllabus for World Cultures and understand what is to be expected from the student during the duration of this course.*

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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