

# World Cultures Syllabus

**Mrs. Elica Ruffin, Sixth Grade, Team Yukon  
Icenhower Intermediate School  
2017-2018**



**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The goal of this course is to introduce six graders to cultures and societies around the world. An awareness of people who live beyond the United States will broaden their understanding of other people and lands. The following regions will be studied as individual units: North America, Latin America, Europe, Russia, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Eurasian Republics, Southwest Asia & South Asia, East Asia & Southeast Asia, Australia and the Pacific Realm. Students will explore the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events, as well as identify the geographic characteristics of these societies. Geography, history, culture, and present day topics will be examined within each regional unit.

## **TEACHER INFORMATION:**

Mrs. Elica Ruffin, Room 109

Conference Time: **1:30-2:42 p.m.**

School Email: [elicaruffin@misdmail.org](mailto:elicaruffin@misdmail.org)

School Phone: 817-299-2700

**TEXTS:** *World Cultures & Geography* (National Geographic)  
*Contemporary World Studies* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)  
Online textbook: [www.MyHRW.com](http://www.MyHRW.com)

**SUPPLIES:** Planner, one composition book, pencils, a three ring binder, notebook paper, glue or glue sticks, and color pencils.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** For each regional unit there will be map tests, vocabulary quizzes, course content tests, and projects. All test dates will be announced by the teacher at least two days in advance. Test and quiz dates as well as project due dates should be written prominently in each student's planner.

**GRADING POLICY:** *Six week grades will be figured by averaging daily class participation, quizzes, major tests, hands-on projects, homework, and writing assignments.*

Intermediate School Grade Guidelines: Teachers will determine student progress based on a numerical grading scale as follows: 90-100 =A, 80-89= B, 70-79 = C, Below 70=F. I = Incomplete, which indicates incomplete work and is not an academic grade.

Citizenship grades are as follows: E = Excellent, S = Satisfactory, N = Needs Improvement, U = Unsatisfactory.

Grade Categories: Classwork and Quizzes, 50%; Major Tests and Projects, 40%; Homework, 10%.

Number of Grades Averaged Per Grading Period: Ten grades minimum, and at least two grades per grade category. Six week grades will be posted in Skyward within five school days. Exceptions are large projects or writing assignments which may take longer to grade.

Homework will not be assigned during extended holidays: (Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break).

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## Semester Grades

Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three six week grading periods. That average will equal the student's final semester grade. Credit for the course is awarded at the end of the academic year. **Note:** Semester exams are not administered at the intermediate level.

## UIL Eligibility ("No Pass/No Play")

- Each six week grading period will stand alone for eligibility purposes.
- A student who is declared academically ineligible after a six week grading period will be able to regain eligibility if all the student's grades average 70% or higher at the next three week grade reporting period.

**TEST RETAKES:** Students will be allowed to retake a failed major test within a reasonable time during the same six weeks for up to a grade of 70. Students should make an arrangement with the teacher for retesting. Evidence of adequate study through assigned activities may be required before the retest is scheduled.

**LATE WORK GRADING:**

One class day late--	maximum grade of 85
Two class days late--	maximum grade of 70
Three class days or more late--	teacher's discretion

**ABSENCES & MAKE-UP WORK:** It is the student's responsibility to ask his teacher for make-up work and return it in a timely manner. Students will be granted one make-up day for each day absent to complete missed work before grading takes effect. Make-up tests should be arranged with the teacher.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Students are expected to participate actively in class daily through reading, discussion, note taking, group assignments, and keeping their Social Studies notebook updated. Lack of active participation may result in earning a lower grade on tests, notebook checks, and group work.

**RESOURCES for PARENTS:** Parents are encouraged to set up an account with Skyward, the district's grade reporting site. Skyward will make it easy for parents to monitor your child's grades during the school year. To set up an account, go to [www.mansfieldisd.org](http://www.mansfieldisd.org) to locate the Skyward link. Grades and assignments are updated on the site weekly by teachers.

**RESOURCES for STUDENTS:** Tutoring is available through Husky Time, in library resources, and also monitored internet research will be available. Before or after school help is available by appointment.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Using another student's written work or answers as your own, sharing your work with another person to claim as their own, or copying another person's written work, word for word, or from a publication or internet resource is dishonest and will not be tolerated. A grade of zero or F will be given for the plagiarized assignment, homework, test, or other work that is not really your work.