

Geographical Issues of the 21st Century

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Overview

Geography 20G is a required course for high school graduation in Manitoba. It focuses upon Canada, its place in the world, and its relationships to other countries.

Course Objectives

Students will explore and develop a greater understanding of the following:

- The diversity of geographical features and human activities throughout Canada and the world
- The influence of our physical environments on human activity
- Implications of industrialization and urbanization for people and the environments
- Interrelationships and interdependence of local, Canadian, continental and world issues
- The effects of human activities upon the environment

The following is intended as a general outline of the course. The purpose here is to provide you with a framework in which we will work. The course is organized around the five following thematic clusters:

Cluster 1: Geographic Literacy

- Map skills, exploring physical and human geography; global environment types; importance of environmental stewardship; ecological footprint

Cluster 2: Natural Resources

- Variety, location and use of various resources; resource development and sustainability issues (i.e. water and forestry)

Cluster 3: Food from the Land

- Where and how food is produced, and how that has changed over time; major issues in agriculture (i.e. sustainability, GMOs, factory farms)

Cluster 4: Industry and Trade

- How industry is organized and where it is located; current issues related to globalization and the impacts of our consumer choices

Cluster 5: Urban Places

- The social and organizational complexity of cities; environmental issues (i.e. urban sprawl, water/waste disposal)

Course Survival Guide

Welcome to the class! Usually, students will have questions regarding expectations in each of the courses. This is an info sheet designed to answer most of the common questions. If you have any additional concerns, please bring them forward!

The object of this course is for you to gain some insight into the course concepts. Ultimately, you should be able to go beyond just 'knowing the facts', and also be able to apply this knowledge by thinking critically and creatively. A general rule: always strive to *understand* the material and its *connections* to everyday life (don't just memorize a bunch of factual "tid-bits").

The following are a few other major items that will help clarify how this class is going to be organized.

- #1 **IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE IN THE COURSE, GET HELP!** Talk to me about what areas you are finding difficult. Ask questions when you don't understand. Come see me or email me after class if you can't speak up during class.
- #2 **NOTEBOOKS/BINDER:** It is your responsibility to keep a good set of up-to-date notes in this course. If you miss a class, it is *your* responsibility to catch up on any notes, worksheets, etc. Even if you are away, you are still responsible for homework (get a classroom buddy!).
- #3 **TESTING:** *Unit tests* – if you know ahead of time that you will be away for a test, it is your responsibility to let me know as soon as possible, so an alternative test date can be set. Otherwise, **PLAN TO BE THERE!** Unexplained absences may result in a zero, and I do not give retests. If you are ill on a test day, be sure to have a parent notify the school so that I know about your absence in advance. The **test must be written on the day you arrive back at school.** You will always be given plenty of notice of upcoming unit test.
- #4 **HOMEWORK – DO IT ON AN ONGOING BASIS!** This is the best advice I can give you. Not everything we do in class will be taken in to be marked, but this is not an invitation to miss the work. Homework is important as it will strengthen your understanding of the course material.
- #5 **ASSIGNMENTS:** Regarding late assignments: if a legitimate reasons exists, be sure to consult with me as soon as possible **prior to** (not on) the due date – extensions may be granted at the teacher's discretion. Given the importance of tests and assignments to your progress, the regular use of a student handbook/organizer is advised.
- #6 **PARTICIPATION / ATTITUDE:** It's really simple...be nice and respectful. **ABSOLUTELY NO CELLPHONES IN CLASS.**
- #7 **GRADING:** Your final grade will be determined as follows:
Term work: 80% (includes quizzes and tests - 40% and projects, daily work, etc. - 40%)
Exam: 20% (there is one cumulative exam at the end of the year)
- #8 **ATTENDANCE / LATES:** The school policy will be followed. If lates or absences become chronic, or if they interfere with the classroom atmosphere, students may be required to make up the time they miss with me outside of class time.

Most importantly.... everyone (both students and adults) is expected to treat one another with respect, courtesy and politeness.