

World Geography: Western Hemisphere

Course Overview and Syllabus

Course Subject Code: 2315

Grade level: 6-8

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 1.0

Course Description

Designed to introduce students to the study of geography, this course helps students master important concepts in physical and human geography. Comprehensive and organized by region, this two-semester middle school course helps students understand the Earth's physical and human diversity while focusing on the western hemisphere. Students analyze population and settlement patterns and evaluate the ways that human activities modify the physical environment. While studying humans around the hemisphere students compare development, standards of living, systems of government, and economic factors. In addition, students gain a rich understanding of global cultures and the historical factors that have shaped the world around them. All units in the course are parallel and include studies in physical and human geography, ancient cultures, regional studies, and modern issues.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Describe the geography and the historic foundations laid by various cultures of the Western Hemisphere.
- Evaluate the major political and economic events that transformed the Western Hemisphere
- Analyze reasons for conflict and cooperation among groups, societies, countries, and regions of the Western Hemisphere
- Summarize the role of citizens as responsible stewards of natural resources and the environment

The course objectives are implemented throughout specific lessons, which include examples of authentic, historic, and contemporary texts, and focus on grade-level writing and grammar skills.

The lesson objectives are assessed through assignments, quizzes, unit tests, and cumulative exams. Writing is assessed through short writing applications as well as full essay development.

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Students are expected to spend approximately five to seven hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, e-mail, chat, and system announcements, and will provide you with hours of availability, contact policies, and any synchronous attendance requirements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	10%
Essays	10%
Lesson Quizzes	25%
Unit Tests	30%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Projects	5%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

- Unit 1:** Mapping and GIS
- Unit 2:** Applying Social Studies Skills
- Unit 3:** Cultural Foundations in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Unit 4:** Cultural Foundations in the US and Canada
- Unit 5:** Physical Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Unit 6:** Regional Studies: Latin America
- Unit 7:** Physical Geography of the US and Canada
- Unit 8:** Regional Studies: The US and Canada

- Unit 9:** Resources, Industry, and the Economy
- Unit 10:** Modern Governments and Modern Democracy
- Unit 11:** Modern Citizenship
- Unit 12:** Modern Economics
- Unit 13:** Modern Global Concerns

Standards Alignment

The course was designed to meet the requirements of the 2014 Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies. The standards aligned to each lesson are available in the student portal in the lesson information panel.

Materials and Technology Requirements

All course materials are provided through the student portal. You will become familiar with them through an orientation video and the student handbook. These resources are available within the Student Organizer, where you can also check the status of your operating system, processor speed, plug-ins and connection speed.

Accessibility

The course is designed for accessibility to all students. The system provides features and accommodations to meet the needs of ELL and students with IEP's, 504 plans, and Section 508. These accommodations include addressing multiple learning styles, accommodations for assessments, video caption/transcripts, read-aloud and translation tools, and many other features/accommodations.