**Geography for Life Honors Open Disclosure Document**: **2015-2016**

**Teacher: Kami Romeike**

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**EMAIL IS THE BEST WAY TO CONTACT ME**

**Course Description:**

Geography is described as the study of the "why of the where." Geography for Life will explore how to use geography as a tool to better understand the world in which we live. Students will learn to evaluate and question the why and where of spatial perceptions that are read, seen, and heard. The six standards identified below are best understood when using the following geographic themes: location, place, movement, region, and human-environmental interaction. Geography for Life is designed as a semester course, **but is recommended to be a year-long course**. A semester course will include map skills with physical and human geography essentials, beginning with North America, The Middle East, South Asia, and their connections to other world regions. The year-long course continues to use previously learned geography skills connected to the remaining areas of the world.

**Learning Resources:**

The primary textbook for this class is Prentice Hall “World Geography: Building a Global Perspective”.

Additional readings will be photocopied for students or students will be given internet links to the material. If

students do not have internet access at home, they will be able to complete assignments/readings in the school’s library or computer lab.

**General Class Policies:**

1) Daily lessons will be conducted in a variety of formats. Examples include discussion, lecture, group work, research, games, Power Point, films, question-and answer, presentations, etc.

2) I do prefer typed assignments, and you can send assignments to me through email or Dropbox when specific permission is given.

3) I will only accept work that is your own. Any tests, quizzes, or assignments completed through dishonest methods will result in a 0 for any and all students involved in such action. This includes not giving correct credit to authors in papers i.e. plagiarism.

4) Cell phones, pagers, iPods, CD players, and other electronic devices used in class **without express permission** will be kept until the end of the day on a first offense, kept one week on a second offense, and kept until the end of the year on your third offense. Please respect the professional environment of our classroom by not using these items during class without permission.

5) Students must create a gmail account (it can be done with a false name) and link it to my G+ account at Ms.Romeike@gmail.com so that they can have access to all assignments.

6) Students must connect to a Remind101 account to receive updates about class.

5) I follow the school-wide Student Discipline Plan found on pages 9-10 in the West High School handbook. Please familiarize yourself with this policy.

**Attendance and Late Work Policies:**

1) All dates for tests, quizzes and assignments are posted in my classroom and usually on my website. If you know you will be absent (school-sponsored activity, trip, appointment, etc.) you must make arrangements with me to turn in the assignment or take the test prior to the absence. I will not accept homework/tests from students following a foreseen absence, unless arrangements have been made.

2) Following an unforeseen one-day absence (illness, emergency, etc.) you need to turn in your homework the next day you return to my classroom. Assignments must be accompanied by an official school excusal note. If you missed a test/quiz due to an unforeseen absence, you must have a school excusal to make-up the work, and you must schedule a time to do so with Ms. Romeike after school.

3) If you are unexpectedly absent for more than one successive class day, it is your responsibility to contact me in order to arrange due dates for assignments/tests/quizzes (Email is best). This will also provide me with the opportunity to keep you informed of work you may be missing. This contact may also be made by a parent/classmate. Failure to contact me, may result in an inability for you to make up the work missed.

4) When you are absent on “important” days such as test days, I may check your class schedule to verify whether or not you are present in your other classes that day. If that is the case, you will only be allowed to take the test on this same day, and only if an official excusal note is provided.

5). Late work is docked 20% automatically, and each unit’s work is only accepted until the end of the unit (or final exam of each unit). Allowing late work is a privilege I grant to you—I will not accept **any work** after the chapter/unit test—EVEN IF YOU ARE ABSENT ON THE DAY OF THE TEST.

6) In order to keep the class interesting for you as students we must move rapidly through the planned activities for the day. Tardies interrupt others learning, and can draw my focus away from the rest of the class. Because of this participation points will be docked by half for each day that you are tardy.

**Grading Policy:**

1) I follow the Final Grading Scale used in PowerSchool:

94-100%.........A 80-82%..............B- 67-69%..............D+

90-93%………A- 77-79%..............C+ 63-66%..............D

87-89%………B+ 73-76%..............C 59 62%..............D-

83-86%………B 70-72%..............C- 0 58%................F

2) I follow school policy regarding the following grades: I, P, and NG

3) I will not agree to let you make up failed/poor grades from previous terms. It is your responsibility to do the work when it is supposed to be done. I also do not “negotiate” grades. You earn the grades you received through your work during the term.

4) Extra credit opportunities are available each term. Extra credit will be explained in class.

It is available only to bolster your grade—perhaps to change your final grade slightly (such as from a B to a B+). Extra credit will not raise your final grade significantly and you should not count on it for passing this course.

Rules of the Classroom:

1. Be Respectful

2. Follow WHS school policies

3. Be Clean

4. Be Prepared

Disciplinary Consequences will be as outlined in the WHS Handbook

**Tentative Schedule**
Term 1

Unit 1: North America/Maps
Unit 2: South America

Unit 3: Central America

Term 2
Unit 4: Middle East

Unit 5 Europe
Unit 6: Russia

Term 3
Unit 6: Asia

Unit 7: Africa

Term 4

Unit 8:Oceania
Unit 9: Antartica

**Geography for Life Disclosure Contract**

2013-2014

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please read this disclosure document carefully with your student. By signing

this, you and your student agree to the policies and procedures of my class. If

you have any questions or concerns, I am always available to conference with

you about your student and this class. Please be involved in your student’s

progress and encourage him/her to study each day and come to class prepared. Please

check PowerSchool often and encourage your students to do the same.

I appreciate all your support and look forward to spending time with your

student this year.

Sincerely,

Mrs.Kami Romeike

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

 Signature

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

 Best method of contact (email or phone #)

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

 Signature

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

 Printed Name

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

 Class Period