

**General Course Information**

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| **Course Title** | Western Hemisphere Studies |
| **Description** | A thematic survey of the western hemisphere focusing on culture, geography, and political structural development of the western hemisphere of the world from early civilization to current time. |
| **Room Number** | 137 |
| **Faculty Name** | Ms. Tenney |
| **Contact Information** | ktenney@connect.kwoods.org |
| **Course Website** | http://ktenneyportfolio.weebly.com |

**Course Outline**

This subject is a thematic survey of the western hemisphere focusing on the geographical, political, social, and economic development of North America, Central America, and South America.

Students will use a variety of materials- student textbook, supplemental texts, primary documents, personal narratives, videos, and graphs/charts/maps. Students will compare different political and economic systems.  Students will learn the following basic social studies skills: reading for understanding content, note taking, writing, defending a position, problem solving, interpreting data, drawing conclusions, making projections, and cooperative learning.

The materials will be presented using a variety of methods consistent with the theories of multiple intelligences and Universal Design for Learning.  The units and lessons will be based on the National Council for the social Studies Standards and the State of Michigan Standards and Benchmarks.

**Course Expectations**

You are expected to work hard and try your best. You are also expected to be respectful and responsible students inside and outside of the classroom. This includes respectful and responsible behavior towards your class work, classmates, and the instructor.

Students are expected to keep up with projects and assignments that will be worked on daily in class as well as with work taken home. Class will always begin with a Daily Question, which students are expected to answer to in complete sentences. Students will be expected to use and improve their reading and writing skills during class by being an active participant in class activities. Class time will also consist of class discussions about current affairs. Part of this class’ goal is to teach students to be an effective communicator. Students are expected to be *active* AND *respectful* participants in all discussions and will be held responsible accordingly. To be successful with this class, you must work continually, participate, engage, and complete assignments.

**Technology in the Classroom**

In this class we will use various types of technology to help us research, share ideas, and reflect. This includes, but is not limited to: internet use, email, Google drive and video. When technology based assignments are given, students will be expected to complete them on time and make plans accordingly if internet access is not available at home. Students will be provided with access to any technology needed to complete the requirements of this course through Kensington Woods High School.

**Personal use of electronics is not permitted in this class unless specified by the instructor.**

Phones/ipods/ipads/tablets/laptops are NOT permitted unless given permission by the teacher in *advance* or when *announced*. If students are using phones to take pictures, text, play games, or use social media, the student will have their technology taken from them for the rest of class by the teacher. If it occurs again, the teacher will send the piece of technology to the office. If the piece of technology is in the office, only a parent of said student can collect the technology.

**Essential Standards of Learning**

In this course, learning objectives (targets) have been aligned to the Michigan Grade Level Content Standards, Common Core Curriculum, and expectations of the social studies department at Kensington Woods High School. These learning targets are designed to also prepare students for success in high school and success as an informed and engaged citizen.

This course is designed thematically and the themes that will be assessed are:

Culture and Identity; Expedition and Exploration; Clash of Cultures; and Going Global

**Prerequisite knowledge/skills for success in this course**

Students do not need to have any prior experience to find success in this class. Instead, students are expected to work thoughtfully and purposefully, developing focus to achieve self-assigned goals and reach teacher expectations throughout the year.

Students will also work on developing the following skills that will help them find success in this course.

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| **Mastery Level** | **Work habits**: Students will be able to work effectively independently and in groups. Students will be able to work thoughtfully and with purpose.  **Academic integrity:** Students will act honestly and ethically in their work.  **Study skills**: Students will adhere to assignment deadlines.  **Reflection**: Students will be able to reflect about their own and others work in and thoughtful and purposeful manner.  **Technology (both manual and computer based)**: Students will develop a deep understanding of technologies used in class |
| **Familiarity Level** | **Research**: Students will develop research skills (computer and book based) to research current events  **Technology (both manual and computer based)**: Students will develop familiarity with technologies used in class  **History and Context**: Student will develop skills in analyzing history and understanding context via cause/effect. |

**Course Materials**

**Textbook (provided by teacher):**

*My World Geography,* 2011 Pearson

Classroom copies of the book will be available for use in the classroom. If students would like to purchase an online version of the book, they can do so at [www.pearsonschools.com](http://www.pearsonschools.com) and enter the ISBN number 9780133691627. The online version of the text is $21.47 for a 1-year subscription. It is **NOT** necessary to purchase the online text, but you can do so if you wish.

**Classwork/Homework Folder (provided by teacher):**

If you are absent, all of the handouts you missed for class will be located in a personal classroom folder that you will be able to leave in class. All assignments in the classroom/homework folder will have specific due dates. Please treat this folder as you would a textbook so that it will last the entire year and I will be able to reuse it for the following years!

**Student Materials:**

*Supply List:*

**Daily Journal:** This can be a simple one subject notebook (general cost: $0.50 to $1). This journal is meant to focus students or review topics at the beginning of each day. Students who complete the Daily Question in their journal everyday will receive extra credit.

**Interactive Student Notebook (ISN):** This can be a simple one/two subject notebook (general cost: $0.50 to $1). Instead of keeping all note handouts in a folder, this year we will be writing notes in a notebook and pasting any handout notes in the notebook as well. This way all notes will be centernally located. Students may leave this notebook in class on the self provided for their class. Notebook will be checked periodically by Ms. Tenney for a formative grade.

**Writing Utensils (*Pencils or Pencils)***: Students should come to class prepared to write even if it is just in Daily Journal. If student does not come prepared and wish to borrow a pencil, they must come prepared to give Ms. Tenney something they treasure as collateral. Shoes are not accept in this trade.

**Grading**

Grades will be based on how well you meet specified course objectives/learning targets through class projects and assignments.

**KWHS follows the following grading scale:**

A= 95-100 (4.0)

A- = 90-94 (3.7)

B+ = 87-89 (3.3)

B = 83-36 (3.0)

B- = 80-82 (2.7)

C+ = 77-79 (2.3)

C = 73-76 (2.0)

C- = 70-72 (1.6)

F = below 70 (0.0)

**Your grade will consist of assessment of the following:**

Formative Assessments (formative mean s in process or learning is forming)

Formative assessments include daily work, homework, and participation points.

Summative Assessments (summative means assessments that sum up your learning)

Summative assessments include quizzes, traditional tests, projects and reflections.

Tests and projects will be announced with sufficient time before the test/project due date. Tests are closed book and closed notes.

10% Summative Final

End of semester test or project/reflection.

You and your parents can check your progress at any time using MISTAR (formerly ZangleConnect), our online grading and record keeping program. For more information about MISTAR, visit the school’s website, www.kwoods.org.

**On Time Assignments**

Because of our high expectations for our students, Kensington Woods has developed a school wide late work policy.

Late work on projects is **NOT** accepted. Assignments are expected to be turned in **ON THE DUE DATE**. Students who will be absent on the due date due to a field trip, sporting event, etc., will be expected to turn in the assignment IN ADVANCE. If a student is having difficulty finishing a project on time due to unforeseen circumstances, the student MUST contact Ms. Tenney the day before the due date to set up an alternative due date.

Students with excused absence on the due date of an assignment may turn in the assignment on time when that student returns to the classroom.

**Revision**

I expect you to put in your best effort on your work and master the content. If you do not master the content of a unit/project by receiving at least a 70% on the work, I expect that you will revise the project until you get at least a 70%. We will work on that process on a one-on-one basis if necessary.

In order to complete a revision on an assignment, project, or test, the student will need to fill out a Kensington Woods Request to Revise or Retest form signed by a parent or guardian. A revision/retest must be scheduled within **14 days** from the day the project or test was handed back. Revisions/Retest is only available before/after school with at least 1 day prior notice to teacher, and will only be given after receipt of the Request to Revise or Retest form.

**Classroom Expectations**

**Absences**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Students are expected to be in assigned seats ready to learn. If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining and making up missed work which will be in the absent folder. Be resourceful by talking to another student, checking the assignment date board, or going to <http://ktenneyportfolio.weebly.com> in order to find out what was missed for the class period.

**Extra work time**

If you need more time to work on a class project, you are expected to take the initiative and schedule time **in advance** with me to work on you assignment before or after school in order to have enough time to complete the assignment on time.

**Computer Labs**

There is absolutely no food or drink in the computer labs. While in class in the lab, you are expected to follow all rules of the computer labs and your Computer Use Agreement.

**File Storage**

**Online:** You will be able to store any work we do online, on your Google drive which is attached to your student email. You will be required to save your work for class in a shared classroom folder. We will review how to move files from your personal drive into a shared folder.

If you choose to use something other than Google drive to store your work (such as a USB drive or Microsoft Word online) you will still be responsible for getting it in by the due date.

**Bathroom/Office Passes**

Students will have five bathroom passes to use during each quarter. They must sign out by writing the date and time next to their name on a Bathroom sign out sheet. The bathroom pass necklace must be worn on the student during the time they are out of the classroom.

**Food/Drink in the classroom**

There is absolutely no food or drink other than water allowed in the classroom. Students who choose to eat/drink in the classroom will face appropriate consequences.

**Respect**

My primary goal in class is for every student to feel like I respect them, and their peers respect them. This means respect for all members of the classroom community, respect for the materials and respect for the room through your actions, words, and thoughts. This includes appropriate language and behavior. Students who are not able to participate in the class respectfully will be dealt with appropriately.

It is my goal that this course provides you with the knowledge and tools to create a lifelong appreciation of learning. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I am always available to answer questions or provide help to both students and parents. I look forward to a great year!

Thank you,

*Kristin Tenney*

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| **Ms. Tenney’s Western Hemisphere Studies Class** |
| Student-Parent/Guardian-Teacher Contract |
| |  | | --- | | All parties agree that academic success is the product of a cooperative effort. To insure that | | |  | | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will benefit from this union, each party has the      (Student)                following responsibilities: | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | | |
| https://docs.google.com/a/connect.kwoods.org/drawings/d/sP4ftOSO5bWRRmA0phTTSBg/image?w=624&h=3&rev=1&ac=1 |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | As a student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, will: |  | |  | 1. **Be respectful to my classmates and my teacher.** 2. **Put my best effort into my school work.** 3. **Obey all rules both at home and at school.** 4. **Come prepared to school with homework and materials.** 5. **Take responsibility of my classroom work and homework.** 6. **Make good choices: listen to direction, complete my assignments, and follow through as expected.** 7. My choice:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |  |  | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | As a parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, will: |  | |  | **1. Monitor my child's school work and extracurricular activities.  2. Maintain a discipline policy with my child.  3. Communicate concerns about student progress via email, phone call, or a meeting by appointment.** | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | As a teacher Ms. Tenney, will: |  | |  | 1. **Provide a safe comfortable environment for my students.  2. Provide ample time for my students to receive extra help before or after school.  3. Enforce school rules consistently.  4. Provide students with clear and concise expectations.  5. Work to make learning an enjoyable experience.** | |
| https://docs.google.com/a/connect.kwoods.org/drawings/d/sD4cTxRSdnsWMiS5Gs-iAEw/image?w=624&h=3&rev=1&ac=1  I have read and understand this contract in conjunction with the Class Syllabus for Western Hemisphere Studies. |
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Contact Information

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ email address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_