

Mr. Harris

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Room 72

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## COURSE OVERVIEW:

This class is a study of the various people, groups, and states that interact in the world. We will study the theories of international relations. We will focus on major issues and regions of the world. We will investigate themes such as conflict, resources, and the role of the United States in the world.

We will regularly discuss and study geography through the year. We need to understand where everything is and the physical conditions of these lands before we understand why the people act the way they do. We will need to learn the history and political structures of these nations as well. Be prepared to learn these things both in class and independently.

We will discuss current events as they happen. If something "big" happens, we will stop to study and discuss it. Other than that, we will constantly monitor the condition of the world. You will regularly be required to report on events. Our focus will be on the world outside of the United States.

**Grading:**    **Classwork** – 20%;    **Position Papers**– 20%;    **Simulations** -60%

**A** – 90% and above    **B** - 80% - 89.9%    **C** – 70% - 79.9%    **D** – 60% - 69.9%    **F** – 59.9% and below

Quarter grades will be treated as progress reports. You will not reset your grade in the second and fourth quarters.

**Classwork (20%):** "Classwork" basically means "None of the above." If it is not part of the simulation, it is classwork. This can include (but is not limited to) quizzes, projects, presentations, writing assignments, group work, and participation.

**Position Paper (20%):** This is how you present your research for the simulation. You will receive specific directions in the Simulation Handbook. These will be submitted on Turnitin.com prior to the simulations. "Ideal resolutions" can also be part of this grade.

**Simulations (60%):** This is your participation in the simulation. You must be prepared with knowledge of your nation, your nation's position on the issue, and how your nation relates with other nations on the issue. Once you complete your position paper, you should be prepared for the simulation. You will be required to speak often the speakers' list in each simulation (if time will not permit, pay attention to what you might have to do alternately). In addition, you should be prepared to ask questions of other speakers, speak out during moderated discussions, and stay on task during unmoderated time. You should take part in writing at least one resolution per simulation. During our first few simulations, pay very careful attention to the rules and mechanics. Also, you will run one or more simulations. You will receive a Simulation Handbook that outlines all of these ideas. The final exam will be a simulation.

If the thought of speaking in front of the class terrifies you or seems impossible, talk to me after school. We can brainstorm some strategies and possible alternates. However, these might not be enough to guarantee you an A or B in the class

**Class rules:** All of the rules stem from being **respectful, reasonable**, and taking **responsibility**. You know what this means. Try to learn and become a better person. Help those around you to learn and become better people. If you're stopping yourself or others from learning, you're not doing the right thing.  
TL:DR – Be awesome.

Consequences include: Verbal warning, loss of participation points, individual conference, parent contact, and referral to the office for further administrative consequences.

Keep your head up! Pay attention. Sleep at home (or in math class), but not in here. If your head is down, you will lose all of your participation points. No warnings. If you're working in materials for another class or anything else isn't relevant to the class, you will lose all of your participation points. No warnings.

On the other hand, I will give bonus points for those who are always doing what they should be doing and being awesome, positive parts of the class.

Detailed rules and procedures will be covered in class.

**Honesty policy:** Cheating in any form will not be accepted. Failure to follow this will result in an F for the assignment, could result in an F for the semester, and could face additional consequences. If you don't know the difference between "working together" and cheating, make sure you ask before you do it. Turnitin.com will be used for writing assignments.

**Materials:** Please have some binder paper and either a pencil or a blue/black pen. I will expect you to have a section in your binder or a folder to keep handouts and worksheets. You should have your Simulation Handbook every day.

**Make up/late work:** You will have one day to make up work for every day you have an excused absence. It is YOUR responsibility to check the daily log (on the website) when you are absence and ask questions. Late work – you have one week with a 25% penalty. Some projects will have their own late consequences. For missed tests or quizzes, you have one week to take it or make specific arrangements with me. Any quizzes taken after one week (or after the grade is in the gradebook, whichever comes last) will only count for 50% credit.

**Tardy, truancy, and electronics:** A tardy is an unexcused absence. You cannot make up a quiz missed due to any unexcused absences. Your participation grade will drop with each infraction. Habitually tardy students will receive additional consequences in addition to school wide tardy consequences. Your participation grade will drop with non-academic/non-approved use of electronics (including headphones and chargers). On the other hand, I will give bonus points for those who are always on time and keep your electronics put away.

That said, you *will* have many opportunities to use your phone, tablet or laptop in class. They can be very helpful, especially during simulations. We will use the Chromebooks as often as possible. Just make sure you are ABSOLUTELY certain each day that you may use it before you take it out, use it properly, and put it away when finished.

**Read through this course outline. Show it to your parents. Go to my website. Find and read the Social Studies Policies. Show it to your parents. Find and print the page labeled "PRINT THIS." Both of you sign it. Return it. Get points. Be happy.**