

APEX World Geography and Cultures

Class Description:

This class meets the graduation requirement for the State of Washington and Kennewick School District.

Geography and World Cultures offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that enables students to explore how geographic features, human relationships, political and social structures, economics, science and technology, and the arts have developed and influenced life in countries around the world. Along the way, students are given rigorous instruction on how to read maps, charts, and graphs, and how to create them.

Geography and World Cultures is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

Geography and World Cultures is designed as the first course in the social studies sequence. It develops note-taking skills, teaches the basic elements of analytic writing, and introduces students to the close examination of primary documents.

Learning Materials:

APEX is a complete curriculum, other than a computer a student does not need any additional materials.

Learning Goals:

The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards. This course meets a graduation requirement and meets at least one GLE and/or EALR.

Learning Activities:

Student will complete Study, Discussion, Activity and a Quiz for each section in a unit and then will complete a unit exam. Activities are based on a student earning a min. of 70% or better in each activity.

Evaluation:

On each month's progress reports, student will report completion and mastery of learning activities designed to reach specific goals within the course description.

In addition, students will keep portfolios of their written work, quizzes, and tests to show their consultants and/or HQ teachers.

Every month progress will be determined by the HQ teacher of this course based on the question: "Will the student master his performance objectives by the end of the course?" The HQ teacher will take into consideration ALL factors (including student life situation, effort, attitude, etc.) when making this professional judgment.

Each month, the student will be expected to master approximately 10% of the yearly goals for this class (or 20% of semester goals), with all of the goals being met by the end of the year (or semester.) The mastery of any one goal may be an on-going process and some goals may overlap or be difficult to measure. Evaluation of progress toward the mastery of the goals will be based on monthly completion (or progress toward completion) of the learning activities that are designed to provide the means to achieving the goals of the learning plan. With that said, monthly progress can still be marked satisfactory based on the professional judgment of the teacher that the student will complete the goals of the course.