

DEVON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Geography II (8th Grade)
Course Description and Expectations
School Year 2009-10

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Welcome to our second year of Geography – World Regional Geography! This course plays an important part in Devon Prep's Mission the more you learn about the world, the more you prepare yourself to become responsible, compassionate leaders who serve God by serving humanity. (See *Student Handbook*.)

This year, we will explore the natural and human geography of Canada, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Oceania, and Africa, region by region. By the end of the year, you should be able to locate every country and name its capital; you should be able to identify the world's major topographic features, bodies of water, and climate regions; and you should know something about the peoples, religions, economy, and political situation in each region of the world.

We have Geography class four times a week. Please bring the following items to every Geography class:

- your textbook (*World Geography Today*);
- your Nystrom world atlas;
- a 3-ring binder, containing your study guides, maps, and copybook;
- a 3-hole, one-subject copybook for homework and class notes; and
- a pack of 8 standard crayons, for outlining countries and tracing rivers on maps.

Homework, including map work, will be assigned every class. If you cannot complete the homework, you must have it finished by the following class; otherwise, you will have to stay after school to finish it. Each quarter, you will have several tests; their average will be your grade for that quarter. As required by the *Student Handbook*, you must return every graded test the next class, signed by one of your parents. If you miss a test due to illness or absence, you should be ready to take it during class the day you come back; or I may ask you to make it up after school within two days. If you fail a test and I allow you to take a make-up test, both grades will count toward your average. At the end of each semester, there will be a comprehensive exam, which will count for 20% of your semester grade, and each quarter's grade will count for 40%.

Devon's Mission Statement stresses an atmosphere of cooperation, and I encourage you to work together on your homework – but this does not mean just copying another student's homework! On tests and exams, however, you must do your own work; cheating will earn you a grade of 0 for that test or exam.

Finally, to better understand the countries and regions we study, I strongly encourage you to watch the evening world and national news on television.

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Please sign below to indicate that you understand the expectations for this course.

Student

Parent

Date