

# Differentiated Geography Description/Expectations

**Instructor:** Mrs. Kelley  
**Classroom:** A113 **Office:** A117

**Website:** <http://wp.lps.org/akelley/>  
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Differentiated Geography is not a required course, but it does fulfill the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Geography graduation requirement. This nine-week course is highly recommended as a precursor to taking Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography as a sophomore. Curriculum will include some material taught in the regular Geography course, but we will focus on strategies to prepare students for success in AP level courses.

Curricular topics:

- Unit 1- Geographic Concepts & Mapping Skills
- Unit 2- US States and Capitals
- Unit 3- Population
- Unit 4- Culture
- Unit 5- Religion
- Unit 6- Development

While this is NOT a weighted course or an Advanced Placement course, we will focus on the necessary skills for a student to be successful at the AP level.

1. Inquiry Skills- Pose and answer questions
2. Interpretation Skills- Access and interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources
3. Analysis Skills- Use data including maps, graphs, charts, visuals, and other sources to draw conclusions and make comparisons
4. Application Skills- Create written, visual and oral products related to information

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. **RESPECT:** Be respectful of everyone and everything while in this classroom. Respect the rules!
2. **Class Portfolio:** Please keep a class notebook with everything during the term to stay organized. Use a 3 ring binder to KEEP ALL ASSIGNMENTS from the term. Ask for assignments if you are absent!
3. **Come prepared:** Bring your textbook, a class notebook or folder for this class, a planner and any necessary homework assignments. It is critical that you establish a good work ethic right away in order to stay on top of assignments and material!
4. **Students are expected to hand in assignments on time.** When a student cannot hand in an assignment on time, they may hand in late work for full credit, but only accepted for full credit under terms decided on by the teacher. Once that specified deadline has passed, work may be accepted for reduced credit. Deadlines will vary, depending on assignment. Students may be required to attend a study hall before or after school to complete work if it becomes a reoccurring issue.
5. **Test Retakes-** Retakes are allowed for 1 week after test is graded/passed back. The student needs to schedule a time to complete retake either before or after school. Student may receive partial credit back on overall test score, if they correctly answer/fix those questions missed. All missing assignments for a unit must be completed in order to be eligible for retake. Quizzes may not be retaken.
6. **Arrive on time and attend class daily-** LSW policies are followed and procedures are in the classroom. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> tardy- warning, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> tardy- lunch detention 5<sup>th</sup> tardy- referral

7. **Food and drink-** Students are allowed to have bottled water or a water bottle in the classroom. Please leave food in your locker or in your backpack during class time. Thanks for your cooperation!
8. **Use electronic devices RESPONSIBLY.** Cell phones may be confiscated until end of day, or given to security with referral to administration, if it becomes a problem. Talk with the teacher if you need to use your cell phone during class, situations may arise that warrant cell phone use but please be responsible! Students may choose to listen to music quietly during individual “work time” only. Please do not use electronic devices of any kind during instruction, lecture or test/quiz time.
9. **Passes and Planners-** Please keep track of homework in your planner, the agenda will be written on the board daily. You will also need a planner to use as pass when leaving the classroom. Students are expected to sign in and out when entering and exiting the classroom. Please limit your passes for restrooms, drinks and locker trips as this disrupts class and learning, PLAN AHEAD!
10. **Grading-** Differentiated Geography is not a weighted class so we follow the regular grading and credit scales. Both formative (20%) and summative (80%) categories will be used in the grade book to measure student learning and determine grade. Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) and students may receive a zero.

A	90-100%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84%
C+	75-79%
C	70-74%
D+	65-69%
D	60-64%
F	Below 60%

**Return this page completed with a parent/guardian signature by this Friday, August 15th**

**STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name) have read the above information and understand Mrs. Kelley's classroom procedures and expectations. I have shared these guidelines with my parent(s)/guardian(s). By signing below, I am agreeing to follow the classroom procedures and expectations for **Differentiated Geography** and will strive for excellence in this class.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Class schedule

Subject	Teacher	Room #
1 <sup>st</sup> :	_____	_____
2 <sup>nd</sup> :	_____	_____
3 <sup>rd</sup> :	_____	_____
4 <sup>th</sup> :	_____	_____

Extra curricular/school activities you are involved in:

Other things you do in or outside of school (work, activities, clubs, sports, volunteer, etc.):

Favorite school subject/class:

Something you like about LSW or are looking forward to doing while at LSW:

Other information I should know: (special accommodations in classroom, interesting facts, personal situations or issues, etc.)

A topic of interest you hope to learn more about in this course:

**Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),**

I feel it is very important to have clear communication between us in order to help your student be successful in the classroom. My contact information is located on the front of this course descriptions/expectations handout. Please write down my email and phone number should you need to contact me regarding your student and their progress this term in **Differentiated Geography**.

Please encourage your son or daughter to check their grade periodically online at: Synergy Student Vue  
I look forward to working with your son or daughter this term and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank You, Mrs. Alison Kelley

**PARENT OR GUARDIAN should complete and then sign below.....**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/guardian(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number parent/guardian could be reached at: \_\_\_\_\_

Work number parent/guardian could be reached at: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(easiest way for me to communicate with you)

Is there anything you would like me to know about your student and/or their learning needs?

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_