



2011-2012

GCG1D: Geography of Canada



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Room 114
Room 210

Course Description and Rationale:

This course explores Canada's distinct and changing character and the geographic systems and relationships that shape it. Students will investigate the interactions of natural and human systems within Canada, as well as Canada's economic, cultural, and environmental connections to other countries. Students will use a variety of geotechnologies and inquiry and communication methods to analyze and evaluate geographic issues and present their findings.

Curriculum Structure and Strategies:

Geography is a dynamic subject! Students learn geography in this course through being involved in a variety of individual, small group and whole class tasks, which provide a range of opportunities for oral and written communication. There is a variety of learning strategies used in this class including the following:

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|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Textbook Use | Debate | Small Group Cooperative Learning |
| Visual Presentation | Report | Multimedia Presentation |
| Direct Instruction | Role playing | Work and Task Sheets |
| Data Analysis | Graphing | Internet Search |
| Oral Presentation | Mapping | Socratic Discussions |
| Transparency | Field Trips | Research |
| Video Analysis | G.I.S Applications | |



The following represents a brief outline of the **major units** and **topics** to be covered during the course of the year:

Unit 1	<p>Canada and Mapping Skills (ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map of Canada Geographer's Toolkit – Mystery Island Geography and Technology (GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing, etc.) <p>GIS Activities: Intro to GIS and Thematic Maps</p>	15 hours
Unit 2	<p>Physical and Natural System Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada's Geologic History and Planet Earth Canada's Landforms Canada's Ecozones Tour Project National Parks and Protected Spaces Ecological Integrity: National Parks <p>GIS Activities: Earthquakes, Ecozones and/or National Parks</p>	35 hours

Unit 3	Human Systems Connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population distribution, density and settlement patterns Immigration patterns and policy Aboriginals (Heritage and Land Claims) Urban land use and planning – End of Suburbia Case Study Developed, Developing and Industrialized Countries GIS Activities: Our Community: The Future of Toronto and the GTA	25 hours
Unit 4	Humans in the Environment Connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of Industry Resource Exploitation and Canadian Resource Distribution Sustainable Development and our Ecological Footprint 	25 hours
Unit 5	Summative Project – Canada’s Global Connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The World Community and Economic Development Current Events Scrapbook – Oct through May 	10 hours

You should have a **divider in your binder** for each of the units listed above.

Assessment and Evaluation:

Evaluation of student achievement will be cumulative and as in all secondary school courses, the evaluations are divided between “Assessment as Learning” for evaluation of tests, projects and assignments from the school year, and “Assessment of Learning” for evaluation of the independent study unit and the final exam. The breakdown for this is as follows:

Term Work (70%):

- In-Class Group Assignments (20%)
- Individual Assignments (25%)
- Tests (25%)

Independent Study Unit (10%)

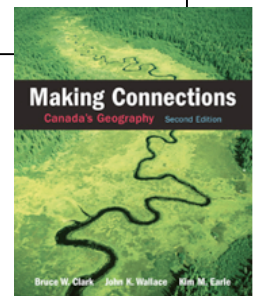
Final Exam (20%)

Within each of the aforementioned Categories of Work, student achievement will be evaluated in a balanced and appropriate manner with respect to the four Ministry of Education Categories of Achievement.

Resources:

Course Text: Clark, B. and Wallace, J. *Making Connections Canada’s Geography, 2nd Edition*. Scarborough, Ontario: Prentice Hall Ginn Canada, 2006.

Teacher Supplied Resources: Internet sites, source readings and DVD documentaries.



The Senior School Desktop [SSD]:

You are required to check the Senior School Desktop (SSD) under the correct grade 9 **Geography of Canada** section – **Bader** or **Lambersky** - daily for homework, assignments, handouts and/or announcements. It is your responsibility to check to see what you need for each class and be prepared. Please bring a **fully charged laptop and charger** to each class.

Use of Laptop Computers in Class:

While in class the computer will not be turned on until you are instructed to do so. The computer will be used for instructional purposes only [note-taking, internet, searches, software, etc.]. Use of the computer for any other purpose during scheduled class time [i.e. gaming, email, downloading, etc.] is prohibited. Failure to comply, or suspicion of these activities may result in loss of computer privileges.

Late Penalty for Assignments:

Major/minor assignments that are late will be penalized **5% per missed class** to a maximum penalty of **15%**. A student can be awarded a '0' on this assignment if it is not handed in after a prolonged time. Before a '0' is awarded, discussions will occur between the student, teacher and Director of Senior School. Exceptions can be made due to prolonged student absences or extenuating circumstances. A decision about an exception is at the teacher's discretion. Assignments will not be accepted once those that were submitted on time have been evaluated and returned.

Missed Tests:

It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements, ahead of time, for any tests that are missed. A grade of '0' will be assigned until the student brings in a note to the teacher signed by a parent or guardian explaining the absence. The evaluation of a missed test will occur immediately upon return to school at a time determined by the teacher.

Plagiarism:

It is expected that students will hand in work that has been completed by themselves and/or with appropriate citations where necessary. Failure to do so will result in an academic penalty. Further disciplinary action could also follow.

In addition, **extra-help** appointments may be made in person or via email. If the need arises, please feel free to approach Ms. Bader or Mr. Lambersky soon as possible.

