

# Wyoming Department of Education Required Virtual Education Course Syllabus

## Niobrara County School District # 1

Program Name	Wyoming Virtual Academy	Content Area	SS
Course ID	D-HST-213AV2-K	Grade Level	9-12
Course Name	Geography- Semester 1	# of Credits	0.5
SCED Code	04001G0.5012	Curriculum Type	K12 Inc

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

*Generally offered first semester.* This course examines a broad range of geographical perspectives covering all of the major regions of the world. Students clearly see the similarities and differences among the regions as they explore the locations and physical characteristics, including absolute and relative location, climate, and significant geographical features. They look at each region from cultural, economic, and political perspectives, and closely examine the human impact on each region.

### WYOMING CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

STANDARD#	<a href="#">BENCHMARK (Standard/Indicator) Use the Standards and Benchmarks as Spreadsheets</a>
SS12.1.6	Compare and contrast various world political systems (e.g., ideologies, structure, and institutions) with that of the United States.
SS12.2.1	Analyze and evaluate the ways various groups (e.g., social, political, and cultural) meet human needs and concerns (e.g., individual needs and common good) and contribute to identity (e.g., group, national, and global), situations, and events.
SS12.2.2	Analyze human experience and cultural expression (e.g., language, literature, arts, traditions, beliefs, spirituality, values, and behavior) and illustrate integrated views of a specific culture.
SS12.2.4	Analyze and critique the conflicts resulting from cultural assimilation and cultural preservation in Wyoming, the United States, and the World (e.g., racial, ethnic, social, and institutional).
SS12.3.2	Analyze and evaluate how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services in various economic systems (e.g., capitalism, communism, and socialism).
SS12.3.4	Explain how financial and government institutions make economic decisions (e.g., banking, investment, credit, regulation, and debt).
SS12.4.1	Describe patterns of change (cause and effect) and evaluate how past events impacted future events and the modern world.
SS12.4.2	Analyze the development and impact of tools and technology and how it shaped history and influenced the modern world.
SS12.4.3	Given a significant current event, critique the actions of the people or groups involved; hypothesize how this event would have played out in another country.
SS12.4.4	Describe the historical interactions between and among individuals, groups, and/or institutions (e.g., family, neighborhood, political, economic, religious, social, cultural, and workplace) and their impact on significant historical events.
SS12.4.5	Using primary and secondary sources, apply historical research methods to interpret and evaluate important historical events from multiple perspectives.
SS12.5.1	Use geographic tools and reference materials to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize historical and geographic data to demonstrate an understanding of global patterns and interconnectedness.

SS12.5.2	Describe regionalization and analyze how physical characteristics distinguish a place, influence human trends, political and economic development, and solve immediate and long-range problems.
SS12.5.3	Analyze, interpret, and evaluate how conflict, demographics, movement, trade, transportation, communication, and technology affect humans' sense of place.
SS12.5.4	Analyze how environmental changes and modifications positively and negatively affect communities, <a href="#">tribes</a> and the world both economically and socially.
SS12.6.1	Analyze, evaluate, and/or synthesize multiple sources of information in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem.
SS12.6.3	Use digital tools to research, design, and present social studies concepts (e.g., understand how individual responsibility applies in usage of digital media). link to ISTE student standards
SS12.6.4	Evaluate and integrate accurate, sufficient, and relevant information from primary and secondary sources to support writing

### SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

UNIT OUTLINE	STANDARD#	OUTCOMES OBJECTIVES/STUDENT CENTERED GOALS
Unit 1: Introduction to Geography 1.01 Introduction to Geography		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about the upcoming Unit.</li> </ul>
Unit 1: Introduction to Geography 1.02 Welcome to Geography	12.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate an understanding of geography and its definition.</li> <li>Differentiate between physical geography and human geography.</li> <li>Identify geographical landforms such as hill, peninsula, plateau, isthmus, strait, etc.</li> <li>Differentiate between various landforms and bodies of water.</li> </ul>
Unit 1: Introduction to Geography 1.03 Locating Our Place in Space	12.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define terms such as axis, spatial, grid system, elevation, scale, key, and compass rose.</li> <li>Describe the separation of the continents due to movement of the plates and explain how they were once united (Pangaea).</li> <li>Differentiate between absolute and relative location by identifying the latitude and longitude of their community, as well as their relation to other key locations in the world such as Washington, D.C. and Paris, France.</li> <li>Locate your community on a world map by using maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the development of regions and the difference between formal, functional, and perceptual regions.</li> <li>Evaluate how spatial patterns and regions change over time due to human and physical phenomena.</li> <li>Describe and model how the tilt of the Earth's axis affects the angle of the sun's rays, thereby causing seasons.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 1: Introduction to Geography 1.04 Physical Attributes of Earth's Landscape</p>	12.5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define geological terms such as ecosystem, plate tectonics, erosion, and climate.</li> <li>Differentiate and describe the relationship between Earth's major physical systems, such as biosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and atmosphere.</li> <li>Describe the water cycle.</li> <li>Analyze how physical patterns affect climate and explain the factors that influence climate regions such as elevation, latitude, location near warm and cold ocean currents, position on a continent, and mountain barriers.</li> <li>Evaluate the impact of abnormal and/or hazardous environmental conditions at different scales, and the impact people have on these conditions.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 1: Introduction to Geography 1.05 Human Impact</p>	<p>12.1.6 12.2.1 12.2.2 12.5.3 12.5.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define terms such as culture, movement, population, human-environment interaction, pollution, industrialization, religion, economy, and government.</li> <li>Describe the movement that occurs between people, goods, and ideas, and the subsequent impact on the development of regions.</li> <li>Differentiate between the major world religions, governmental systems, and economies.</li> <li>Explain the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources and infer how human</li> </ul>

		consumption of these resources will impact future generations.
Unit 1: Introduction to Geography 1.06 Careers in Geography	12.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the general purpose of the G8 Summit.</li> <li>• Describe the role geographers play in the world.</li> <li>• Identify tools necessary for geographers and the type of information provided by those tools.</li> <li>• Examine issues a geographer would face in a developing community.</li> </ul>
Unit 2: North America 2.01 North America Introduction		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about the upcoming Unit.</li> </ul>
Unit 2: North America 2.02 Where is North America?	12.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the location of the three largest countries of North America, 50 states of the United States, mountain systems, major rivers, and Great Lakes.</li> <li>• Describe the landforms, climates, population, culture, and economic characteristics of places and regions in North America.</li> <li>• Use coordinates of latitude and longitude to determine the absolute location of points in North America.</li> <li>• Use cardinal and intermediate directions to describe the relative location of places in North America.</li> <li>• Describe a variety of physical and human regions by analyzing maps, charts and graphs that show patterns of characteristics that define regions.</li> </ul>
Unit 2: North America 2.03 Physical Characteristics and Systems of North America	12.5.2 12.5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how environmental processes (i.e., glaciation and weathering) and characteristics (landforms, bodies of water, climate, vegetation) influence human settlement and activity in North America.</li> <li>• Explain how climate is influenced by earth-sun relationships, landforms, and vegetation.</li> <li>• Explain the relationships among climate, vegetation, soil, and</li> </ul>

		<p>geology in different regions of North America.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe ways human settlements and activities are influenced by environmental factors and processes in different places and regions including bodies of water, landforms, climates, vegetation, and weathering.</li> <li>• Differentiate between renewable and non-renewable resources and determine where there is an abundance of specific resources in North America.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 2: North America 2.04 Human Culture of North America</p>	<p>12.1.6 12.2.1 12.2.2 12.4.2 12.5.1 12.5.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain push and pull factors that cause people to migrate from place to place including: oppression/freedom, poverty/economic opportunity, cultural ties, political conflicts, and environmental factors.</li> <li>• Analyze the impact of the Columbian Exchange on the culture of North America.</li> <li>• Describe the geographic factors and processes that contribute to and impede the diffusion of people, products and ideas from place to place including physical features, culture, war, trade, and technological innovations.</li> <li>• Identify works of art and music created by North American artists and the history of their development.</li> <li>• Analyze how colonization, westward expansion, immigration and advances in transportation and communication changed geographic patterns in the United States.</li> <li>• Examine human development statistics of more developed and less developed countries.</li> <li>• Compare different forms of government to the democratic republic of the United States.</li> </ul>

<p>Unit 2: North America 2.05 Human Impact on the Environment</p>	<p>12.4.2 12.5.1 12.5.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe ways in which human migration has an impact on the physical and human characteristics of places including desertification, urbanization, and deforestation.</li> <li>• Describe the relationship between humans and the environment and how spatial patterns develop in relation to physical systems, such as oceans and waterways.</li> <li>• Explain the distribution patterns of economic activities and how changes in technology, transportation, communication and resources affect those patterns including agriculture, mining, fishing, and manufacturing.</li> <li>• Describe ways humans depend on and modify the environment and the positive and negative consequences of the modifications including: dam building, energy production/usage, agriculture, and urban growth.</li> <li>• Analyze the impact of pollution on the environment and the efforts of North American countries to curb its negative effects.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 2: North America 2.06 Immigration in North America</p>	<p>12.2.4 12.4.3 12.6.1 12.6.3 12.6.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the current immigration policy of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.</li> <li>• Predict how future immigration patterns of the United States will be affected by new policies.</li> <li>• Propose a solution to the immigration problems in North America based on current events.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 3: Central America 3.01 Central America Introduction</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about the upcoming Unit.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 3: Central America 3.02 Where is Central America?</p>	<p>12.3.2 12.5.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the location (absolute and relative) for the Central American nations.</li> <li>• Identify the location of Caribbean nations, such as Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe major Mesoamerican historical sites, such as the Colossal Olmec heads and Maya ruins.</li> <li>• Analyze the foundation of the Central American economies based on location and size.</li> <li>• Analyze the difference between a developed and developing country.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 3: Central America 3.03 Physical Characteristics and Processes of Central America</p>	<p>12.5.1 12.5.3 12.5.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define terms such as plateau, tributary, trench, canal, archipelago, cay, and isthmus.</li> <li>• Describe the flora and fauna native to Central American and Caribbean nations.</li> <li>• Analyze the impact of abnormal and/or hazardous environmental conditions, such as volcanoes, mudslides, and hurricanes, on the physical landscape and humans.</li> <li>• Describe the topography and physical environment of the region and the physical processes that affect these regions such as weather, tectonic forces, and wave action.</li> <li>• Analyze the impact of climate change on Central America.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 3: Central America 3.04 People and Culture of Central America</p>	<p>12.3.2 12.4.3 12.4.4 12.5.1 12.5.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trace the historical movement of people, goods, and ideas to, from, and within Central America.</li> <li>• Describe the historical basis for the economic systems of the indigenous people of Central America.</li> <li>• Compare the historical development of the economic and political systems of Central American nations.</li> <li>• Analyze the impact of illegal emigration from Central America and Cuba to the United States.</li> <li>• Describe the cultural attributes of the Central American and Caribbean nations, including food, transportation, art/architecture, and traditions.</li> </ul>

<p>Unit 3: Central America 3.05 Human Impact on the Central American Environment</p>	<p>12.5.3 12.5.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how the Panama Canal was built and how it enables movement.</li> <li>• Describe the importance of regional agriculture and the current issues facing the region and people.</li> <li>• Evaluate the impact of poverty on Central American nations.</li> <li>• Analyze deforestation due to over grazing of cattle and other agrarian practices.</li> <li>• Predict the impact of fair trade and eco-tourism on the environment.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 3: Central America 3.06 Focus on Poverty</p>	<p>12.4.3 12.4.4 12.4.5 12.5.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the issue of poverty in Central America and the Caribbean, as well as the economic disparity between the natives and tourists.</li> <li>• Identify the causes and effects of poverty around the world.</li> <li>• Examine the topic of child labor in relation to poverty.</li> <li>• Propose a solution to the problem of poverty in the region based on current events.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 4: South America 4.01 South America Introduction</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about the upcoming Unit.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 4: South America 4.02 Where is South America?</p>	<p>12.1.6 12.5.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate (absolute and relative location) the countries of South America.</li> <li>• Identify the capitals of the countries of South America.</li> <li>• Describe important landmarks, geographical features, and natural wonders of South America such as the Amazon River, Andes Mountains, and Machu Picchu.</li> <li>• Analyze the political and economic situation of South America.</li> <li>• Analyze the legacy of the Inca civilization.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 4: South America 4.03 Physical Systems and Processes of South America</p>	<p>12.5.1 12.5.2 12.5.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define geographical terms relevant to South America such as elevation, pampas, rainforest, canopy, llano, and altiplano.</li> <li>• Identify the natural resources of different regions of South America.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the physical systems of the region occurring on all spheres, such as the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere.</li> <li>• Describe the impact of abnormal and/or hazardous conditions on the natural environment.</li> <li>• Analyze the importance of the Andes Mountains.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 4: South America 4.04 People and Culture of South America</p>	<p>12.2.1 12.2.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the cultural characteristics of the Inca civilization and the cultural legacy on the people of South America.</li> <li>• Identify the predominant religions of the region and the corresponding beliefs of those who practice.</li> <li>• Explain the profound effect of Eva Peron on the working people of Argentina.</li> <li>• Analyze the current culture of various regions of South America.</li> <li>• Compare and contrast the cultural attributes of the Americas: North, Central, and South America.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 4: South America 4.05 Human Impact on the Environment of South America</p>	<p>12.5.2 12.5.3 12.5.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define terms such as poaching, deforestation, endangered species and sustainable development.</li> <li>• Differentiate between a latifundia and minifundia, and the corresponding impact on the people of South America.</li> <li>• Identify the main oil producing countries of South America and their impact on the politics and economics of the region.</li> <li>• Analyze the human role in the extinction of various species of animals.</li> <li>• Discuss ways to promote sustainable development in South America.</li> </ul>
<p>Unit 4: South America 4.06 Focus on Deforestation</p>	<p>12.4.3 12.5.4 12.6.1 12.6.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the issue of deforestation and the reasons for the destruction of forests, such as in South America.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the man-made and natural occurrences causing deforestation.</li> <li>• Predict how the Earth will change if current practices are not altered.</li> <li>• Propose a solution to end deforestation, yet sufficiently meet the needs of humans.</li> </ul>
Unit 5: Western Europe 5.01 Western Europe Introduction		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about the upcoming Unit.</li> </ul>
Unit 5: Western Europe 5.02 Where is Western Europe?	12.4.1 12.4.4 12.5.1 12.5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate (absolute and relative) the countries of Western Europe and major Western European cities, such as Paris, Rome, London, and Berlin.</li> <li>• Describe the region in which Ancient Rome and Greece existed.</li> <li>• Describe the division of regions such as the British Isles, Mediterranean Europe, and Western Europe.</li> <li>• Analyze the settlement patterns that occurred from ancient times to the present.</li> <li>• Describe different types of economic activity, such as agriculture, industry, and coastal sustenance, in various regions of Western Europe.</li> </ul>
Unit 5: Western Europe 5.03 Physical Systems and Processes of Western Europe	12.2.1 12.2.2 12.5.1 12.5.2 12.5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the types of food available in regions of Western Europe based upon the terrain.</li> <li>• Identify climate regions of Western Europe and the flora and fauna present in the regions.</li> <li>• Identify the major bodies of water in Western Europe.</li> <li>• Define geographical terms relevant to Western Europe, such as peninsula, loess, acid rain, and glaciations.</li> <li>• Report the events of the volcanic eruption at Pompeii in 79 CE.</li> </ul>
Unit 5: Western Europe 5.04 People and Culture of Western Europe	12.4.1 12.4.2 12.4.4 12.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the impact of ancient civilizations on present-day society.</li> <li>• Compare and contrast the ancient Athenian and Spartan civilizations.</li> </ul>

	12.5.2 12.5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore economic and political factors from the Medieval and Renaissance periods in Western Europe to the present day.</li> <li>• Identify works of art from French Impressionists, and the characteristics of the Impressionist style.</li> <li>• Explain the factors that contribute to human migration, and how geography affects the routes, flows, and destination of migration.</li> </ul>
Unit 5: Western Europe 5.05 Human Impact on the Environment of Western Europe	12.5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain acid deposition and its causes and solutions.</li> <li>• Describe the effects of glacial processes on the Alps.</li> <li>• Explain the impact pollution has on people and outdoor sculpture.</li> <li>• Analyze the process and impact of creating genetically modified food.</li> </ul>
Unit 5: Western Europe 5.06 Focus on Economic Systems	12.3.4 12.4.3 12.6.1 12.6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the economic functions of government.</li> <li>• Identify the current economic systems utilized around the world, such as a market economy, command economy, and mixed economy.</li> <li>• Analyze the current global financial situation, and the global crisis that occurred in the early 2000s.</li> <li>• Propose a plan to improve the current financial condition and identify what type of economy works best.</li> </ul>