



Dominican International School
台北市私立道明外僑學校
No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.
10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



COURSE SYLLABUS

School Year	2025-26
Subject	Social Studies
Grade Level	6
Teacher	David Lein
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In the Grade 6 geography course, students will begin with learning about the foundations of geography. Students will learn about the Five Themes of Geography, tools geographers use, climate zones, ecosystems, natural resources, time zones, economic systems, history, culture, governments, and languages. The five themes and the content areas are essential to answer geography's main question: What is there and why it is there (For instance, why are certain religions in certain parts of world? Which parts of the world have certain social rules)?

This course will also expand into pertinent issues:

- a.) Natural Resources and Sustainability
- b.) Climate Change mitigation
- c.) The endangerment of Democratic institutions.

This course will take the basic foundation noted in the paragraph and list above and apply them to studying the regions of: Europe, Eurasia, and Southern Africa.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester/school year, (SWAT) Students will be able to:

Reading Standards (Aligned with Common Core Curriculum Standards)

- a.) identify the main point of the text and explain the supporting details used to supplement the main point.
- b.) analyze secondary texts from credible and valid sources such as BBC, PBS, National Geographic, and etc. The textbook only serves to provide a basic understanding. Supplementation is essential.
- c.) Evaluate the validity and/or complete of text. I.E what information the source lacks.

Writing Standards (Aligned with Common Core Curriculum Standards)

- a.) Construct paragraphs of information, via incorporating both secondary and primary sources.
- b.) Create arguments and substantiate claims using variety of evidence.



D'TORCH Standards

- a.) Students will adhere by the principles of the D'TORCH (Truthful, Organized, Reflective, Helpful, and Courageous)
- b.) Students will understand being respectful to every member of the school community is not just an expectation, but a requirement.

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

Milson, Andrew J. Altoff, Peggy. (2017). *World Cultures and Geography Survey: Student Edition*, Cengage. Copyright 2026

GRADING SYSTEM/ASSESSMENT:

The quarterly grade will be awarded for all student work based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Class Participation, Graded Recitation, Quizzes and Tests- 30% of quarterly grade
- ✓ Major Projects and Assignments- 30% of quarterly grade
- ✓ Quarterly Exams- 30% of quarterly grade
- ✓ Department- 10% of quarterly grade

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please always check Google Classroom for homework and announcements.

Behavioral Expectations

- Be on punctual and be prepared: Everyone is expected to be physically and mentally present. Participation is mandatory
- Be respectful at all times to all individuals. This includes speaking when granted permission to do so. All communication is required to be respectful. **Bullying in any shape or form will not be tolerated.**
- **Usage of electronic devices are prohibited unless allowed. Electronic devices are only to be used for school work.**
- Come ready and have fun learning.
- Only Speak English in the classroom

***For other discipline inquiries, please refer to the Dominican International School Student Handbook. Discipline will be instituted in accordance with the regulations of the handbook.**



Homework and Assignment Policy

- Late Homework or Assignments will be marked late and deducted 10 % for each day the assignment is late (up to a maximum of fifty percent).
- Quizzes, Exams, and major presentations are subjected to the same policy above.
***Penalties will only be avoided when a valid WRITTEN and SIGNED document is presented to the school.**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's work;
- Representing another's intellectual work, such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, research, or the like, as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
- Employing a tutor, using Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgment, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, and paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's work.
- Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment/learning task.

First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (August 12 to 15) <i>4 days of class</i> 12-General Assembly at the Gymnasium 15-Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady	Orientation *Syllabus overview, Class rules UNIT 1: The Essentials of Geography Chapter 1.1: Spatial Thinking a.) Spatial Thinking b.) Patterns of Geography Chapter 1.2: Themes and Elements of Geography. a.) Five Themes of Geography: Location, Place, Region, Movement, and Human Environment Interactions



	b.) Six Elements of Geography: Human, Physical, World in Spatial Terms, Environment and Society, and Places and Regions
<p>Week 2 (August 18 to 22) 18-St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration) Integrated during the Monday Assembly 20- House Shirt & Blue Jeans Day Starts 22- Club Orientation and Club Sign-up</p>	<p><u>UNIT 1: The Essentials of Geography</u> Chapter 1.2: (Finish Six Elements of Geography) Chapter 1.3: Regions of the World Chapter 1.4: Elements and Projections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a.) Scaleb.) Hemispheresc.) Latituded.) Longitudee.) Prime Meridianf.) Equator <p>*Themes of Geography will be revisited especially Location:</p>
<p>Week 3 (August 25 to 29) 27- High School Talk - "Kickstart Your Success: Winning Mindsets for a Great School Year" 29- First Club Meeting</p>	<p><u>UNIT 1: The Essentials of Geography</u> Chapter 1.4: Elements and Projections (Finish Chapter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a.) Projections and distortionsb.) Map Scales: Medium, Large, and Small- scale maps <p>Chapter 1.5: Thematic Maps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a.) Political Mapsb.) Physical Mapsc.) Point Symbol Mapsd.) Dot Density Maps <p>*Understand why we need different types of maps.</p>
<p>Week 4 (September 1 to 5) 1- Launching of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (During the Monday Assembly) 1-AP Registration 3- AEO Fall University Fair 5- House Ceremony</p>	<p><u>UNIT 1: The Essentials of Geography</u> Chapter 2.1: Earth's Rotation and Revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a.) Solsticeb.) Equinox <p>Chapter 2.5: Earth's Climate and Weather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a.) Climateb.) Weatherc.) Climate zones and different types. Compare and Contrast them. <p>*Latitude will be revisited along with Themes of Geography and Elements of Geography.</p>
<p>Week 5 (September 8 to 12) 8- Holy Mass: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & VIP Induction 10- House Mini Games Start</p>	<p><u>UNIT 1: The Essentials of Geography</u> Chapter 2.6: Extreme and Weather Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a.) Extreme Weatherb.) Climate Change



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	*You will be reading articles about this week and performing an analysis.
<p>Week 6 (September 15 to 19) 15- Catholic Bridge Program for all New Students (After the Monday Assembly at the Gymnasium) 19- Athletics / Sports Orientation 19- PSAT/NMSQT Registration deadline</p>	<p><u>UNIT 1: The Essentials of Geography</u> Chapter 2.7: Natural Resources and Sustainability. a.) Renewable Natural Resources. b.) Non-renewables. c.) Sustainability *You will be combining the knowledge from the previous week.</p>
<p>Week 7 (September 22 to 26) 22- Celebration of the International Day of Peace-Peace Pole Ceremony (During the Monday Assembly) Teacher's Day Celebration & 26- Teachers' Appreciation 26- Grade 12 Career Educational Trip 24 to 26-Pre-Exam Days</p>	<p><u>UNIT 1: The Essentials of Geography</u> Chapter 2.8: Habitat Preservation a.) Habitat b.) Pollution</p>
<p>Week 8 (September 29 to October 3) 29- Launching of the Month of the Holy Rosary (During the Monday Assembly) Oct. 1-2- First Quarter Exam (half day)</p>	<p>Review/Exam</p>
<p><i>Oct. 3-DIS Teachers and Staff Recognition Day/ Record Day Recollection for Aunties and Uncles (no classes for students)</i></p>	

Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
	<i>6-Moon Festival (no classes)</i>
	<i>7-9 Teacher's Conference (no classes)</i>
<p>Week 1 (11) (October 13 to 17) 13- Second Quarter Begins 13- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 2nd Semester 14- Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms (During the morning prayer)</p>	<p><u>UNIT 1: The Essentials of Geography</u> Chapter 2.10: World Cultures, Languages, and Religions a.) Culture b.) Religions c.) Cultural Regions *YOU will be given additional Knowledge of History because the past is</p>



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<p>15- AP Exam Only Registration Deadline 15- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 17- PSAT/NMSQT Digital Exam</p>	<p>how it can form Culture and Culture does not only develop in a vacuum.</p>
<p>Week 2 (12) (October 20 to 24) 20- Jubilee: Marian Exhibit Opening (After the Monday Assembly) 20- Campus Safety Talk for Students 24- Book Fair (Senior Escape Room)</p>	<p><u>UNIT 1: The Essentials of Geography</u> Chapter 2.11: Economic and Political Geography d.) Capital e.) Entrepreneurship f.) Gross Domestic Product(GDP) g.) Government h.) Citizens i.) Government Types: Democracy, Oligarchy, Dictatorship, Communism. *You will also know the differences between Developed and Developing countries.</p>
<p>Week 3 (13) (October 27 to 31) 29- Grade 11 Career Educational Trip Oct. 31 to Nov. 1- Gr.6 SEL Camp</p>	<p><u>UNIT 1: The Essentials of Geography</u> Chapter 2.12: Global Issues Protecting Human Rights a.) Human Rights *This chapter, you will combine work from weeks 1 to 2 in Quarter 2: Unit 1 Concludes.</p>
<p>Week 4 (14) (November 3 to 7) 3- Feast of St. Martin de Porres Mass (integrated during the Monday Assembly) 5- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep</p>	<p><u>UNIT 6: Russia and Eurasia</u> Chapter 11.1: Physical Geography and Climate a.) Russia's Physical Geography b.) Climate zones c.) Steppes Check how it affects settlement, revisiting maps Chapter 11.2: Natural Resources a.) What are Russia's Natural Resources?</p>
<p>Week 5 (15) (November 10 to 14) 14- Health Week 14- VIP-Parent Learning Community</p>	<p><u>UNIT 6: Russia and Eurasia</u> Chapter 11.4: Early History a.) Kievan Rus b.) Mongol Rule c.) Romanov Dynasty *We will be exploring how this time period developed Russia's Culture. Chapter 11.5: Serfdom to Industrialization a.) Tsar Alexander I b.) Industrialization *We ask why the Romanovs still fell</p>



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<p>Week 6 (16) (November 17 to 21) 17- Launching of Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Month 21- Young Shakespeare Play Writing and Performing Contest</p>	<p><u>UNIT 6: Russia and Eurasia</u> Chapter 11.6: The Soviet Union a.) Collective Farms b.) Josef Stalin c.) Life in the Soviet Union *Key Question: Was life better under the Soviet Union</p>
<p>Week 7 (17) (November 24 to 28) 24- Peace Pole Day (Monday Assembly) 24- Lighting of the Christmas Tree after school (Campus Min/ ECA/ D' Torch Orchestra/ Religious Studies) (Afternoon) 25-27- Pre-Exam Days 27- Thanksgiving Potluck after school for teachers and staff 27- Thanksgiving Family Day 28- Gr. 12 Second Quarter Exam</p>	<p><u>UNIT 6: Russia and Eurasia</u> Chapter 12.4: Russia's Government a.) Collapse of the Soviet Union b.) Yeltsin's Government c.) Putin's Government and renewed Russian Aggression. *Continuity and Change Questions.</p>
<p><i>Nov. 29 Invitation for All: The Jubilee Pilgrimage to Taipei (Saturday)</i></p>	
<p>Week 8 (18) (December 1 to 5) 1- First Week of Advent: Lighting of First Advent Candle (During the Monday Assembly) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 5- Nativity Play (Collaboration with Campus Ministry) 5- Christmas Fair Whole Day</p>	<p>Review Week</p>
<p>Week 9 (19) (December 8 to 12) 8- Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony, and Class Party (half day) 8- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 8- Second Week of Advent 10- Gr. 12 Advent Immersion 11 and 12- Second Quarter Exam (half day)</p>	<p>Exams</p>
<p><i>December 13 Invitation for All: Advent Recollection @DIS (Saturday)</i></p>	
<p><i>December 15 to January 2 Christmas Break</i></p>	

Third Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
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January 5- Record Day (No Classes for students)

<p>Week 1 (20) (January 5 to 9)</p> <p>5- PSAT 8/9 Registration Starts 6- Third Quarter Begins 7- Monthly Career Talk-College Prep 9- New Year Mass at 8:00</p>	<p><u>UNIT 7: Africa South of the Sahara</u></p> <p>Chapter 13.1: Physical Geography</p> <p>a.) Sahara Desert b.) desertification c.) prominent regions *Revisit 5 themes of Geography of where people will settle.</p> <p>Chapter 13.2: Land Use and Natural Resources</p> <p>a.) Zambezi and Congo Rivers b.) Mineral Rich Resources and Migration patterns. *Learning extensions will be present.</p>
<p>Week 2 (21) (January 12 to 16)</p> <p>16- Club Orientation & Sign Up</p>	<p><u>UNIT 7: Africa South of the Sahara</u></p> <p>Chapter 13.4: Bantu Expansion and Early States</p> <p>a.) Bantu People and Migration b.) Caravan Trade Routes c.) Early Empires: Ghana, Mali, and Songhai *Connect using Natural Resource units</p> <p>Chapter 13.6: The Slave Trade in Africa</p> <p>a.) Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade causes and effects.</p>
<p>Week 3 (22) (January 19 to 23)</p> <p>19-23- Individual Yearbook Photoshoot for Students 19-23- Career Awareness Week 22- Grade 9 Career Educational trip 23- First Club Meeting for 2nd Semester</p>	<p><u>UNIT 7: Africa South of the Sahara</u></p> <p>Chapter 13.7: Colonization, Independence, and Nation Building</p> <p>a.) Imperialism b.) Berlin Conference c.) Independence movements: Jomo Kenyatta and Kwame Nkrumah</p>
<p>Week 4 (23) (January 26 to 30)</p> <p>26- Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas/Launching of the Catholic Week 26-28- Aquinas Conference: Science and Faith 26-30- Catholic Week Activities 30- DYM Charity Concert</p>	<p><u>UNIT 7: Africa South of the Sahara</u></p> <p>Chapter 14.1: Impacts of Colonialism</p> <p>a.) Ethnic Groups and Borders and the differences b.) Intro to Civil Conflicts like Somalia</p> <p>Chapter 14.5: Resource Positives and Negatives</p> <p>a.) Oil b.) Oil Fueling Conflict in Africa: Angola and Nigeria</p>
<p>Week 5 (24) (February 2 to 6)</p> <p>1-4- WASC Mid-Cycle Visit 4- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6-7- SUAQO Recollection for MS</p>	<p><u>UNIT 7: Africa South of the Sahara</u></p> <p>Chapter 14.6: Agriculture and Food Supply</p> <p>a.) Food Insecurity b.) Civil War conflicts and food security famine in Somalia and Ethiopia c.) Solutions *There will be more articles and talking about this</p>



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Week 6 (25) (February 9 to 13) 9- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 1st Semester for SY2025-26 13- PSAT 8/9 Registration Deadline 13- House Valentine's Mini Fair 13- Chinese New Year Celebration	<u>UNIT 7: Africa South of the Sahara</u> Chapter 14.7: Global Issues: Fighting Diseases a.) Diseases in Africa b.) Supply Shortages in Medicines c.) Solutions *We will discuss shortage in doctors
<i>February 16-20 Chinese New Year Holiday</i>	
Week 7 (26) (February 23 to 26) 23-26- IOWA Assessments 23- Student Council Application 24-26- Pre-Exam Days	<u>UNIT 7: Africa South of the Sahara</u> Chapter 14.4 and Chapter 14.8: Nigeria and Kenya a.) Kenya and Nigeria's modernization Stories *Additional Articles will be provided.
<i>February 27 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)</i>	
Week 8 (27) (March 2 to 6) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6- PSAT 8/9 System Installation and Practice Test	Finish units
Week 9 (28) (March 9 to 13) 13 and 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day)	Exam and Review

Fourth Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (29) (March 16 to 20) 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day) 16-20- Faculty & Staff Yearbook Photo 17- Fourth Quarter Begins 18-21- EARCOS Teachers' Conference 19- Lectio Divina and Feast of St.	<u>UNIT 7: Europe</u> Chapter 9.1: Physical Geography Chapter 9.4: Roots of Democracy and Classical Greece a.) History of Ancient Greece b.) Cultural Diffusion of Greek Achievements c.) City-States and reasons for the formation of City States



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Joseph 20- Parents Learning Community Meeting 20- Kindilympics 20-House Movie Night and Club Fair	
<i>March 21 (Saturday) Spring Fair</i>	
Week 2 (30) (March 23 to 27) 23-27 Student Leaders Applicant Interviews 26- Annual Visit to World Religion Museum Gr. 11 27- Lower School Readers Theatre	<u>UNIT 7: Europe</u> Chapter 9.5: Ancient Rome a.) Roman Government b.) Roman Achievement, Christianity and the Roman Empire Chapter 9.6: The Middle Ages and Rise of Ideas a.) Effects of Roman Fall b.) Effects of The Crusades Chapter 9.7: Renaissance and Reformation a.) Humanism b.) Effects of the Renaissance and Protestant Reformation
<i>March 30 to April 6 Easter/Spring Break</i>	
Week 3 (31) (April 7 to 10) 7- Spring University Fair 9- Easter Mass 9- Easter Egg Hunt for Lower School Students	<u>UNIT 7: Europe</u> Chapter 9.8: Trade and Conquest a.) Exploration Causes and Effects b.) Territories of European Countries Chapter 9.9: The Industrial Revolution a.) Factory System b.) Causes and Effects of the Industrial Revolution: African Colonization will be revisited
Week 4 (32) (April 13 to 17) 13 Laudato Si Month Launching (During the Monday Assembly) 13-30 Laudato Si Month Activities 13-17- Class Photo Taking 17- AP Chinese/Japanese Practice Test	<u>UNIT 7: Europe</u> Chapter 9.10: The French Revolution a.) Enlightenment b.) Causes and Effects of the French Revolution Chapter 9.12: War in Europe a.) Nationalism b.) Impacts of World War I and World War II *There will be detailed graphs that will not be in the textbook
Week 5 (33) (April 20 to 24) 20-24 Cultural Awareness Week / Art Exhibit / Earth Week 24- Music Recital	<u>UNIT 7: Europe</u> Chapter 10.3: Foodways in Europe a.) Emphasize Food Security in Europe. Chapter 10.4 : European Union



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<p>20-24 Student Council Campaign 20-24 AP Mock Exams</p>	<p>a.) Effects of the European Union: Why some countries chose to leave it. Chapter 10.5 :Challenges to Democracy a.) Challenges to Democracy b.) Rise of populism: Viktor Orban c.) War in Ukraine d.) Other causes explained: High living costs, migration</p>
<p>Week 6 (34) (April 27 to 30) 27- Student Council Elections 27-30 Senior Project Presentations 28-30 Pre-Exam Days</p>	<p>UNIT 7: Europe Chapter 10.6: Global Issues: Impact of Migration a.) Syria Refugee Crisis b.) Causes of Migration in Europe c.) Compare and contrast migrant groups.</p>
<p><i>May 1: Labor Day Public Holiday</i></p>	
<p>Week 7 (35) (May 4 to 8) 4- May Crowning & Mother's Day Celebration (During the Monday Assembly) 4-14 Final Exams (K, Gr. 5, 8, & 12 Only) 4-15 AP Exams</p>	<p>Review</p>
<p>Week 8 (36) (May 11 to 15) 13 and 14- Fourth Quarter Exam— Undergraduate (half day) 14-16 Student Leaders Retreat Days</p>	<p>Exam week.</p>
<p><i>May 15 Record Day (No Classes for students) Final Deliberation for Graduating/Promoting Classes</i></p>	
<p>Week 9 (37) (May 18 to 22) 18- Gr. 5 Recollection & Mass 19- Gr. 8 Recollection & Mass 20- Gr. 12 Recollection 20- Baccalaureate Mass (Whole School) 18-21 WIDA Testing 19- Lower School Sports Day / Gr. 6 & 7 School Field Trip 19- Gr. 9 - 11 - "Senior Success Forum: Inspiring the Next Generation" 19-22 Student Clearance Days 21- Middle & High School Sports Day 21- High School Field Trip 22- House Culminating Activity 20-22 Final Deliberation for Non-</p>	



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<p>Graduating Classes 22- Student Leaders One Day Recollection / Turn Over Ceremony</p>	
<p>Week 10 (38) (May 25 to 29) 25- Kindergarten Graduation/Gr. 5 Promotion 26- LS Field Trip 26- Gr. 8 Graduation and Gr. 12 Graduation 27- Pre-Kindergarten & Gr. 1 - 4, 6 & 7, 9-11 Recognition Last Day of School, Report Card 28- Distribution, & Class Party (half day) 29- Last day for Teachers/Staff Meeting</p>	

“Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán”