

EXPLORING AFRICA

“Semester Syllabus - 2013”

It's my hope in our efforts at *Exploring Africa* that you will find in Africa the same fascination and mystery, sometimes horror and sadness, that has drawn me in that direction. For so many reasons you need to know this continent. Africa depends on first world support. We live in the wealthiest country on the face of the planet in the history of the world. We have a responsibility to care about a continent, struggling with many third world challenges, whose history is so intertwined with our own. Secondly, many standardized tests including the ACT and SAT feature the African continent - this study will help your scores. Third, it will get you ready for collegiate study of the non-Western world; most college students go into those classes empty. And finally Africa is a very cool continent to get to know and a wonderful place to travel to. Let's get to work!



Course Outline

Time Period

We will run this study for three marking periods.

Partners

You may work with a partner or you may work alone. The choice is entirely up to you. No threes unless by special circumstance approved by me.

One African Nation

You (and partner) must select one African nation. It will be your country for the duration.

Fishline Timeline - MP #4

Your project grade for the first marking period will be to create a Fishline Timeline of your chosen country. See assignment sheet for specific guidelines.

Digging Deeper - MP #5

Your project grade for marking period five will spin off of the Fishline Timeline assignment. You will choose three subjects to dig into. See assignment sheet for specific guidelines.

Traditional Circle Study - MP #6

Your project grade for marking period six will also spin off of the Fishline Timeline assignment. You will take your three subjects from Digging Deeper and present them individually to classmates. See assignment sheet for specific guidelines.

African News Weekly articles - MP#4, MP #5, MP #6

On selected Fridays you must turn in a news article and summary, which features your African nation. You must provide the article, a written reflection, opinion, quote, and question. Be prepared to present that article to the class. Oral presentations will happen on selected Fridays.

ORAL Presentations - MP #4, MP #5, MP #6

Each week we writeup a ANW we will draw three countries for oral presentations. You will explain your article and it's significance in the world - each presentation is worth thirty points. At the end of the three presentations, time permitting; students may present their article for extra credit. Points for Oral presentations will accumulate and be counted as full grade on MP #6.

100 point Exam (African News Weekly / Digging Deeper)

Students take notes on the Digging Deeper presentations and on the African News Weekly presentations for a 100 point exam in the sixth marking period. This will count as a Final Exam and as a Common Assessment Make sure to keep your notes organized. They may be used for the final.

100 point Africa Map Test - All A's "I buy at Lou's"

The very same Africa map test you take in week two will be repeated before Spring Break. You will not be provided a word bank. This test will count as a Common Assessment. All those who earn an A on the test will be taken to dinner at Lou's Little Africa <http://www.happycow.net/reviews.php?id=3397> in Grand Rapids on Fulton and Diamond by Mr. Wood. Lou's has been around for awhile. It's a little hole in the wall. It's got great Ethiopian food and the best tea in the world. We will dine out in May.

Movies - We will see some great movies in our African Studies....

Specific assignments and Google Docs debates will spin off of our movies. Our plan is four...

- 1 - Hotel Rwanda - http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/hotel_rwanda/
- 2 - Last King of Scotland - http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/last_king_of_scotland/
- 3 - The Devil Came on Horseback - http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/devil_came_on_horseback/
- 4 - Babel - <http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/babel/>