

Dear Students,

Welcome to Global Studies B for the Spring Trimester from Oregon City High School via digital distance learning.

My name is Mr. Fiske, and I will be the instructor for this Global Studies B course, the second part of the Global Studies curriculum.

My hope for this course is to engage in activities that will heighten your knowledge of physical and human geography. I wish we could be together in a classroom to bounce ideas off one another and to get the full effect of our personalities enhancing the learning environment. Part of why I became a teacher is the social interaction with students. Now that has been removed from the learning environment, teaching feels very different just as learning will feel different for you. However, I am confident that we will get through this, make progress, and learn from this experience.

RESOURCES

To get set up for this course, you will need a few resources.

Google Classroom – one has been set up for you. The class code for ___ Period students is _____.

To join this Google Class, you will need to do the following:

1. Sign into Google using your school email address.
2. Click the “waffle” (nine dots) in the top right corner of the page.
3. Select the “Classroom” icon. A classroom page will show up.
4. Click the “+” sign in the top right corner (next to the waffle).
5. Select “Join Class”
6. Enter the class code. Again, it is _____.

❖ *There is a quick survey and short-answer activity already assigned. Please complete them and then submit them by Monday April 6th (although, the sooner the better).*

Remind app – A classroom has been set up in Remind in order to communicate with you about due dates and other important updates to the Global Studies B class. If you have never used Remind, then please download it to your phone. The code for the class is **mrfiskes**. You will be joining the class titled “Mr. Fiske’s Global Studies B”.

Mr. Fiske’s Class Website – This is a traditional website with many resources that are used in a traditional classroom setting (homework tracking sheets, note-taking templates, worksheets, videos, lecture notes, presentations, etc.). For those of you who had me in the past, it is the same site as before. However, the “List of Daily Activities” will be less comprehensive in the beginning of this trimester as we forge a new path with distance learning. Here is the address to the website: <http://staff.orecity.k12.or.us/andrew.fiske/index.html>

((Stop here if you’re bored out of your mind and need a break, but don’t forget to continue later.))

OFFICE HOURS

My online office hours for quick communication are **Monday – Thursday (9 AM – 11 AM)**. These may change as we proceed through the trimester due to circumstances out of my control. You may contact me via email outside of the office hours, and I will attempt to get back to you within 24 hours.

ATTENDANCE

You are required to log in to this Google Classroom each day from Monday – Thursday and complete the “Attendance” assignment. This is a good way to check in to see if I have made changes or updates to assignments. Although you are not physically in a building, attendance is required.

ASSIGNMENTS

The Oregon Department of Education has provided guidance to school districts related to coursework. ***They have suggested that online distance learning may continue through the remainder of the year.*** As a result, I will treat all assignments as if they are necessary to earn credit for the class. In the short term, they will not be graded. However, if the district alters the focus from non-graded to graded work, then **I will go back and retroactively grade the assignments.** Additionally, any assignments not turned in will be unable to earn a retroactive grade because they are missing. My expectation is that all students should complete assignments with the intent of doing their best in case they end up being graded.

Your first assignment is scheduled to be posted to the Google Classroom on Friday April 3rd. It will be due on Tuesday April 7th. Please check the Google Classroom daily for attendance and assignment updates.

DIGITAL BEHAVIOR

For those of you who had me as a teacher in the past, remember what is written at the top/middle of my whiteboard: **“How will you be MATURE today?”**

Although we will be using online resources and other digital apps for the course, basic classroom rules of respect still apply. Appropriate school language, including properly worded written messages, must be maintained. We may engage in video-conferencing from time-to-time so the misuse of digital technology through inappropriate behavior will result in consequences. However, I don’t foresee that being an issue since ***I view high school students as young adults who are able to act as such.***

I recognize these are challenging adjustments to the normal learning environment. Many of you may be engaging with digital learning for the first time and are nervous about the process. Please understand that there will be a learning curve as a result of varied technologies, and I hope to learn from you as much as you hope to learn from me.

At any time, please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns. I’m looking forward to working with you this spring!

Sincerely,

Mr. Fiske
OCHS Social Studies Department
andrew.fiske@orecity.k12.or.us

((Congratulations! You read the entire letter and lived to tell about it. Now go have a snack!))