Year 8 Australian Curriculum Geography  Teacher: Mirja McLean-Engstrom

Course Description
In this course students will study ‘Landforms and Landscapes’, students focus on processes that shape individual landforms and the values and meanings placed on landforms and landscapes by diverse cultures. In ‘Changing Nations’ students will draw on the concepts of population distribution, urbanisation, economic and social change. There will be a focus on Australia, the USA and China.

Achievement Standard (from http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/) By the end of Year 8, students explain geographical processes that influence the characteristics of places and explain how places are perceived and valued differently. They explain interconnections within environments and between people and places and explain how they change places and environments. They propose explanations for spatial distributions and patterns among phenomena and identify associations between distribution patterns. They compare alternative strategies to a geographical challenge and propose a response, taking into account environmental, economic and social factors. Students identify geographically significant questions from observations to frame an inquiry. They locate relevant information from a range of primary and secondary sources to answer inquiry questions. They represent data and the location and distribution of geographical phenomena in a range of appropriate graphic forms, including maps at different scales that conform to cartographic conventions. They analyse geographical data and other information to propose explanations for spatial patterns, trends and relationships and draw reasoned conclusions. Students present findings, arguments and ideas using relevant geographical terminology and graphic representations in a range of appropriate communication forms. They propose action in response to a geographical challenge taking account of environmental, economic and social considerations and predict the outcomes of their proposal.

Learning Outcomes:
• Demonstrates an understanding of the geographical issue of landforms and landscapes
• Demonstrates an understanding of the geographical issues of urbanisation and migration
• Develops geographically significant questions and plans an inquiry
• Collects, selects and records relevant geographical data from a range of sources
• Represents data in a range of forms, including appropriate maps
• Analyses data to propose explanations for geographical trends and patterns, and to draw conclusions
• Reflects on their learning to propose responses to a contemporary geographical challenge

Work Practice Outcomes
• Participates and contributes to the effectiveness of the class
• Brings the required materials to class
• Uses class time productively and works independently
• Completes set tasks and meets work deadlines

Materials Required
One 96 page exercise book, a fully equipped pencil case (pens, pencils, scissors, ruler and glue stick), a clear-sleeve display folder for handouts. A USB thumb drive for storing ICT-based learning activities is highly recommended.

Typical Homework/Late Work Policy
Students are expected to catch up on missed work, revise notes and complete unfinished work for homework. Students should submit drafts of essays and assignments for feedback. Some class time will be available for assignment work. In order to properly assess a student’s performance against the Achievement Standard, teachers require multiple examples of written work. Therefore it is very important that students submit work on or before the due date. There is no guarantee that late assignments will be marked in time for reporting and therefore all extensions must be negotiated with the teacher prior to the due date. Students who submit no written work, or submit it late, may receive a D or E grade for this subject.

Assessment Items Due Date
Task A Week 7
Source Analysis Common Task Week 10
Task B Week 12
Class participation Ongoing