**Indiana School for the Deaf – International Studies**

High School Department

Academic Year: 2013-2015

Mr. John A. Borkowski & Mr. Malcolm Peters



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| I. | **Course Description:**This course is designed to acquaint our students with the history, regions, religions, literature, languages, cultures, architecture, art, current events, along with a Deaf perspective of all the aforementioned topics, of (name of country) in preparation for the trip in March 2015. |
| II. | **Course Objectives:*** Students will develop a better understanding for the history, regions, religions, languages, Universal Sign Language, cultures, art, architecture, people, current events and Deaf culture of the cities/countries to be visited.
* Students will have a basic understanding of the geography of (name of country)
* Students will learn how culture and experience influence people’s perceptions of places and regions.
* Students will research and present one of several different pieces of Deaf culture from (name of country)
* Students will appreciate selected works of art/architecture that they will see and be able to identify background information on artists, the history of the art pieces and the basic elements of the artwork
* Students will use literature, art, and history as a springboard for critical writing
* Students will keep a journal/resource book throughout the year.
* Students will discuss individual and group fundraising projects in class and implement and complete them outside of the classroom.
* Students will plan and present a multimedia presentation at a parent meeting as well as a high school assembly about their experiences and travel.
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| III. | **Course Requirements and Expectations:**1. Because students are a role model to others, students are expected to maintain **positive citizenship** in the school community. Show respect for school staff, students, and property as well as for the opinions and comments of students in the class. Extend every courtesy and consideration for fellow student travelers not currently taking the International Studies class and make them feel part of the group.
2. Students are **responsible** for obtaining information from class lectures, discussions, handouts, and projects. Students are responsible for making up class work in the event of excused absences and for meeting assignment deadlines.
3. Class activities will include:
* Individual/Group work
* Creating projects
* Current news
* Hands-On activities
* Reading literature, articles and handouts
* Movies/videotapes
* Attending field trips
* Taking tests
1. Research will be expected on:
* the roots of (name of country)
* history
* art & architecture (medieval and modern)
* poetry and fairytales
* modern issues about (name of country)
* Deaf-related issues in (name of country)
1. Materials:
* individual portfolio binders for class
* spiral notebooks or lined paper (for note taking)
* art resource book and/or albums
* travel journal

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| IV. | **Grading Criteria** A. Homework, Classwork, Projects, Attendance (40%)* Students are expected to complete assignments on time to receive full credit
* Students *will earn full credit* for neatness and good quality work

 B. Tests (30%)* Tests will be announced and review packets will be given prior to tests.

 C. Semester Exam (30%)* A cumulative semester exam and/or final exam project/presentation will be given per semester, covering the content of the class
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| V. | **Teacher’s Note:*** Whenever teachers are absent, students are expected to give full cooperation with substitute teachers
* Whenever students are absent, students are expected to collect missed work within two days of absence = # of days given to make up returning to school
* Teachers are available anytime for all students who need to consult with us about the class and the trip. Students need to make appointments to ensure that teachers can be available.
* This course is created to provide students with the opportunity to learn, share and experience this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of traveling abroad with your fellow classmates and teachers. We anticipate an extraordinary trip that will produce for us wonderful memories, a true appreciation for cultures, strengthened friendships, and for some of us, a newfound love for travel. ***The success of the class and trip therefore rests on students as well as your teachers, so let’s make this year an exceptional year to remember!***
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**IV.**

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| **How to contact us:****Phone Number: Fax number**:317.493.0664 (VP or Relay) **E-mail addresses:**Mr. John A. Borkowski: jborkowski@isd.k12.in.us Mr. Malcolm Peters: mgpeters@isd.k12.in.us  |

***(name of country) – Here we come!***

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| **Student’s Name (Printed):** |  |

**I have read through the syllabus and I understand what is expected of this class. I will strive to do my best!**

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| **Student signature** |  | **Date:** |
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| **Parent/Guardian signature** |  | **Date:** |