AP Human Geography Syllabus 2015-2016

Instructor – Ms. Webster room 617

CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about people and the planet – how do they interact together? How does one affect the other? Why do some cultures thrive while others die out or struggle? We will study the relationship between people and the planet over SPACE and TIME. This course is about INTERACTIONS, CONNECTIONS, SCALE, DIFFUSION and other geographic themes. Spatial tools like maps and GIS will be used to tell stories, analyze phenomena and solve problems (that’s what a REAL geographer does…)

COURSE TEXT

*The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography,* Rubenstein, James M., 11th A.P. Edition. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2014.

Optional supplemental text: *Kaplan AP Human Geography* *2014*, ISBN-10:1618652486 | ISBN-13:978-1618652485

EXAM DATES

The AP exam for this class is scheduled for Friday, MAY 13, 2016. It is highly recommended that you take this exam. If you choose not to take the AP exam, please be aware that you will be required to take a final exam during the scheduled period.

EXPECTATIONS

* Be on time, attentive, mature and involved.
* DO the readings and assignments (yes…they matter).
* Only leave class if NECESSARY.
* Be aware of technology etiquette – cell phones should be used in conjunction with **SPECIFIED** activities. Do not pull phones out without asking first. If you are on your phone, you are distracted. If this becomes a problem, after a warning, discipline procedures will be started.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

* A 2 inch 3 ring Binder - Colored markers
* College Rule notebook paper - Colored Pencils
* 13 Dividers

COURSE GOALS

* ***Use and think about maps and spatial data***. Maps are a geographer’s primary tool (both paper and online). You should be able to read them, interpret them, use them to analyze situations, solve problems, etc. You should also understand that THEY ARE NOT PERFECT!
* ***Understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena***. You should be able to hypothesize about the relationships between things on the planet.
* ***Recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes***. You should be able to compare and contrast things between local and global levels. (What happens at one scale affects another scale).
* ***Define regions and evaluate the regional process***. Regions can be defined in many ways. These regions are keys to understanding locations and their connectedness.
* ***Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places***. You should be able to analyze and understand the connections between places over space and time. You should also be able to take this further and hypothesize, understand or explain WHY those changes are occurring.

GRADING

20% - Homework & classwork

30% - Tests (Chapter/Unit tests, FRQs)

25% - Quizzes and study materials (readings, binders, note cards, notes etc.)

25% - Projects, case studies and presentations

GRADING COMPONENTS

***Tests*** may be per chapter, or per unit, or BOTH. These will be announced well in advance. These are typically given in a two day span (multiple choice/FRQ). Many will be timed to simulate the AP testing experience. Test Corrections will be required until a student earns a passing score and meets standard of the Learning target. Supplemental learning assignments may be required for students in order that may meet standard of the Learning target and to earn a passing score.

***Quizzes*** are fairly frequent. These will be announced in advance. They may be on readings, chapter material, lecture material, required research, etc. Multiple formats will be used including short answer, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true-false, paper or online formats.

***Homework*** may include readings, questions, research or some other format. It is due on the assigned date for full credit. If homework in not completed regularly a student may be assigned an academic support referral after school.

***Study Materials*** include things like note cards, readings, notes, etc. These will be collected periodically throughout the course. The purpose of this is to aid you in studying for the tests/quizzes!

***Projects/Case studies*** are used to extend learning of concepts in the book. This is the opportunity to apply textual information to real places and current situations.

***Binders*** will be used in class daily to A) review or introduce concepts or vocabulary, B) reflect on topics, C) share relevant or interesting information D) to collect and organize evidence of learning for the unit assessments

***Projects*** are sometimes assigned as singular or group research activities. These are quick, one to two day mini-projects that highlight certain concepts or areas of note around the world.

MAKE-UP WORK

Please check with me when you are absent. We will need to make arrangements for you to make up the learning opportunities you missed. This may mean an absent student upon return will need to attend academic support or AP study club days. Try to minimize absences if possible. PLEASE do not show up here coughing and hacking by any means; just keep in mind that absences hinder progress. Not all learning moments can be made up. Looking at someone else’s notes is NOT THE SAME as being involved in classroom discussion and interactions.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is highly important to your success as a student. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, giving other students’ answers, copying other students’ answers, or providing content about class assessments to other students. Penalties for any of the above include zeros, referrals and poor recommendations for National Honor Society or other organizations that require academic integrity.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The AP exam date DOES NOT CHANGE even if we have snow days. Due to this every attempt will be made to adhere to the schedule below as closely as possible. You may be responsible for some of the text information ON YOUR OWN as we will not have time to cover it all in class.

**September 9th – First day**

**September - Unit 1: Geographic Concepts September**

**September/October - Unit 2: Population & Health**.

**October - Unit 3:** **Migration**.

**November -Unit 4:** **Folk & Popular Culture**.

**November -Unit 5:** **Language**.

**December - Unit 6:** **Religions**.

**January -Unit 7: Ethnicities**.

**February - Unit 8: Political Geography**

**February - Unit 9: Development**

**March -Unit 10: Food & Agriculture**

**March -Unit 11: Industry & Manufacturing**

**April - Unit 12: Services & Settlements**

**April - Unit 13: Urban Patterns**

**April/May - Unit review in class, after school and Saturday morning before exam.**

**May 13 – AP Exam**

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

* Taking good notes:
  + Take your own notes. Go over them multiple times and ADD onto them.
  + Determine what’s important – if it is written on the board, repeated or emphasized, write it down.
  + Use word signals (“The first reason why…” – this should be a clue that you need space for multiple things and can help with organization)
  + Title and date everything so you know what it is later.
  + Review notes within ONE CLASS PERIOD.
* Listen effectively:
  + If you come in thinking the class will be boring, it will be.
  + Don’t FAKE attention. It doesn’t really work in the long run; no doubt I will notice, but I may not point it out to you (this is a COLLEGE course after all…)
  + Go into class expecting to participate and be ready for it.
  + People say approximately 100-125 words per minute, but you can process about 400 per minute. Are you thinking ahead about the next point?

