Advanced Placement Human Geography

Course Syllabus

2016-17

**Mrs. Amanda Killough**

**Room 9118**

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**Tutorial Times: Mon & Wed 3:45-4:15, Tues & Thurs 7:45-8:05 (And by appt.)**

Texts:

Rubenstein Textbook - *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*

Supplemental Materials:

Ethel Wood - *AP Human Geography: A Study Guide, 3rd Edition.*

The Princeton Review: *Cracking the AP Human Geography Exam*

Video and Electronic Sources:

*The Power of Place: Geography for the 21st Century* – Annenberg Series with Harm DeBlij

*Maps101.com “Geography in the News”*

*The New York Times: Upfront Magazine*

*Hotel Rwanda*

*Food, Inc.*

*Girl Rising*

Frequent and various copied articles and other electronic supplementary materials

Supplies:

* one two-inch binder with 8 dividers (optional)
* 1 or 2 composition notebooks (a must)
* blue or black ink pens
* highlighter 4pk (4 colors)
* 24 pk of map pencils (for school use)
* notebook paper

**AP Test:** The AP Human Geography Test is Friday, May 12, 2017.

\*Students who take the AP test and finish the course with an 85 average or above do not have to take a final exam.

Course Description: Advanced Placement Human Geography (APHG) is a college-level course designed to replace a course taken later in college. *Students MUST be self-motivated, dedicated, and serious to be successful*. APHG requires students to be able to learn and apply critical reading and analysis skills and be able to write in various forms, for various audiences, in both structured and non-structured settings. In order to be proficient in these skills, students must be self-directed and intrinsically motivated to succeed. Students will need to spend an average of 5 hours minimum outside of class per week preparing for this class.

Along with the above, it is also important that you remain flexible. If we have certain plans for the class period and we venture away from those plans because we are involved in a heated discussion, question/answer session, reading out loud, etc., you must be ready and willing to adjust as this may affect the scheduled homework, etc. Always be prepared to record changes in the schedule if necessary. This comes with being diligent and organized.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth’s surface.
2. To learn about and employ the methods of geographers, especially including observation, mapmaking, data gathering and reporting, and technical writing.
3. To employ spatial concepts, geographic vocabulary, and landscape interpretation to a variety of locations and situations around the globe and in local areas.
4. To develop a geographic perspective with which to view the landscape and understand current events.

**In A College Course it is Imperative that You:**

1. Assume responsibility for all of your behavior. There are no exceptions, only reasons.

2. Ask appropriate questions and avoid the ever-tempting art of what I refer to as “blurting.” Speak like you are meant to be in a college level class. Think before you talk. Add something to the discussion.

3. Listen to others’ opinions/ideas and wait to speak until it is your turn or you are called on.

4. Know and follow all procedures in this syllabus and refer to it often.

5. Come prepared for every class period.

6. Assume responsibility for all work, including getting notes and assignments from days you are absent.

**THIS IS NOT A CLASS IN WHICH YOU WANT TO FALL BEHIND.**

7. Have a positive attitude about and during the course, assignments, discussions, and your ability to do well.

8. Recognize that there is always room for improvement; if a student is having trouble, he/she should seek out his/her instructor or classroom peer.

**Class Commitment:** As previously mentioned, this course will require a high level of commitment on your part. I know that the majority of you participate in extra-curricular activities and/or take other advanced courses. However, concessions will not be made due to your workload. Use your best judgment when scheduling appointments and other activities. Proper time management and problem-solving skills will help you meet all of your commitments.

On another note, commitment to this course also means coming in and getting extra help when you need it. I am available before and after school almost every day to work with students from this class. I will drop most anything to answer your questions. However, I will NOT chase you down. You must come to me. Trust me, you will see the benefit. Also, feel free to come in early or stay after if you just need a quiet place to work.

**Grading Procedures:** Grades will be as follows: in-class work/daily work (10%), quizzes and some larger homework assignments and FRQ essays (20%) tests, major projects (70%)

Please Note: Because there is a heavy level of work in this course, we may use a variety of grading strategies and ***I MAY NOT GRADE EVERY PIECE YOU PRODUCE.***

**Turn in Policy:** Credit for being “on time” depends on having a hard copy to hand in on the assigned due date **AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**. Work sent to the teacher via email or GDocs is not considered “on time” unless an electronic format was specified. Taking pictures of your work you left at home and sending them after you get home from school will only be acceptable for a late grade. Compatibility/printing issues are the responsibility of the student. Students will not be allowed to spend class time retrieving and/or printing documents. Do not wait until the last minute to finish your work or to print it out. Our school library does allow printing but you may not use class time to do so.

**Please do not ever leave work on my desk, under the door, or in my mailbox. I can’t promise that I will receive it. Always turn your hard copies into the appropriate turn-in box.**

**Absences:** When you are absent it is your responsibility to get with me to gather your missed assignments. You will be given as many days as you missed to make up the assignment.

**Late Work Policy:** Late work will be accepted up to one day beyond the due date for 30 pts off.

**Writing Notebooks:** In this class you will keep a notebook for classroom notes, homework notes, and a variety of other assignments. This notebook is the vehicle through which you will explore new ideas, synthesize complex concepts, and collaborate with your peers while learning to develop your own note taking skills. This notebook will be your go to book of knowledge when reviewing for tests, quizzes and your AP exam in May.

**Current Events:** Your objective as a future adult is to be aware of the world around you, locally and globally. Each one of you will be responsible for doing a number of current events throughout the year.

### **BYOT**

LISD is committed to make learning opportunities available through *Bring Your Own Technology.* It is our goal that students and teachers will collaborate in rich, engaging learning experiences using technology. Students may bring their own technology (notebooks, iPads, and e-Readers) and utilize personal electronic communication devices in the classroom when the teacher deems them appropriate for educational purposes. FM9 is a 1:X campus and the iPad is the preferred method of technology. All inappropriate and/or non-academic use of personal technology will result in disciplinary consequences. CELL PHONES WILL NOT BE ACCEPPTABLE SUBSTITUES FOR IPADS.

**Level-Down Policy**

At the end of the first three-week period, if a student’s grade reflects an inability to keep up or to do well in the class, s/he may fill out a level-down form to get out of the course. However, just because s/he applies does not always guarantee that s/he will get to level down. A parent phone conference and student conference must also take place before any paperwork will be filed with the counselor’s office. The number of zeros and tutoring attendance will also be taken into consideration.

Behavioral Expectations: The Power of Integrity

There are generally no “rules” in this class, but there is structure. I expect nothing less than your best behavior in this classroom, and this includes maintaining academic honesty and integrity at all times. It also involves listening to others and not talking out of turn. I do have a few procedural items that will be discussed as the need arises.

As freshmen, you know what is right and what is wrong, and I expect you will always choose what is right. (And if you’re not sure, you need to ask!) I respect honesty above all else, and expect the best out of my students at all times. Cheating is, in my eyes, one of the grandest forms of disrespect: of yourself and of me. I am a teacher who reads all of your work, who knows your handwriting, and who has little patience and/or sympathy for excuses and apathy. There will be no “second chances” in terms of assignments if I suspect you or plagiarizing. You will receive a zero and the appropriate disciplinary consequences per district policy.

Please do not put me in a position where I have to question your academic honesty and personal integrity.

Other Class Guidelines: Since you are enrolled in this course, I am to assume you have undergone academic success thus far. Congratulations. Because of this, though, it is very easy for you to walk into a class and make some assumptions of your own. Its is easy, on your part to presuppose you will earn a very high grade on every assignment because that is the way it has been in the past. It is great to have high expectations for yourself, but I would like to share with you a different perspective for this course. I want you to be willing to learn from your mistakes to become great thinkers and great problem-solvers and I am here to help you get there. Please do not expect perfection because as you know, no one is perfect. I will grade you fairly and I will work with you to help you reach your goals. Please remember:

1. Learning is a process. Mistakes and failures are opportunities to grow.
2. You must make mistakes to learn. Let yourself, learn from them, and move on. You will benefit so much more.
3. I have a method to what may seem like madness at times. If I grade a certain way, there is a reason. I do nothing without rationale.

Curriculum Topics:

1. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives
2. Population and Migration
3. Cultural Patterns and Processes
4. Political Organization of Space
5. Agriculture, Food Production, and Rural Land Use
6. Industrialization and Economic Development
7. Cities and Urban Land Use

**Addendum:** Re-tests:  Objective tests may be retaken for the highest possible score of 70. Quizzes cannot be taken over.  Students are responsible for scheduling a re-test time with the teacher within one week of receiving the failed test paper.  Re-tests will not be offered after this period.

After thoroughly reading and discussing the syllabus and classroom policy, I hope you realize that I am giving you several resources to help you succeed, whether it be through one-on-one time at school, after school or contact via email. I am confident that the students who take advantage of these resources will be the students who are the most successful in this class.

To show you have read and understand Mrs. Killough’s expectations, you and your parent/guardian must sign below. To receive credit for this, each student must return this sheet to Mrs. Killough by Friday, August 26, 2016.

Student Signature/Print Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Parent Email Contact Number