Mr. Kohnert

Room E10

Preferred method of contact:

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# **Course Syllabus: AP Human Geography**

Course Description: The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

***Students should be self-motivated and ready to do a lot of outside reading as this is an advanced placement course.***

The course will be based upon the following themes:

Population Geography

Cultural Geography

Political Geography

Economic/Agricultural Geography

Urban Geography

## Expectations

1. Required materials:

Notebook (a big one) and folder for **Geography class only.**

Recommended: An AP test prep book for Human Geography. I recommend either Kaplan’s or Barron’s

**B. You are responsible for the work you do or do not do**.

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to ask for make-up assignments, and to arrange to make up quizzes, tests, or projects.

C. Know how you will earn your grade:

**Weighted Grading categories:**

Classwork/Homework: 32%

Projects: 32%

Tests/Quizzes: 36%

 Grades are based upon percentages. I use categories and percentages to compute grades on the school based computer program.

93% A 73% C

90% A- 70% C-

87% B+ 67% D+

83% B 63% D

80% B- 60% D-

77% C+ 0 F

D. Classroom policy:

\* Be on time to class

\* No hats, jackets, headphones, or cell phones in class

\* No food or drink in class (water is okay)

\* Be respectful of others and their opinions, as we will be having many class discussions

 \*Always do your best, you will not fail if you are truly trying

E. Please type all class work. It should be double spaced, 12-point font, regular margins. There are computer labs available in the school if you need access to type your papers. **Do not email work to me.** Please invest in a flash drive, so that if your printer breaks down you can print your paper at the library/friends house/media center. Yes, computers/printers do break, but a broken computer is also a convenient excuse to turn in something late. If your computer/printer is broken, then please hand-write your paper double-spaced and turn it in to me ON TIME until you can get me a printed version.

F. Plagiarism: Southwest High School does not tolerate plagiarism. If you are suspected of plagiarism, you will receive a “0” on your assignment. If there is a second offense, you will fail the class for the quarter.

G. Late Work: Work is expected to be turned in on the due date. You will be given **one** free day to turn in your assignments. This can be done with no penalty to your grade. After that, the score becomes a zero unless discussed with and agreed upon with the instructor.

**\*\*\***If you are gone the day of a test, you will be expected to take the test the **day you return** to school

If parents or students have questions or need to contact me, please e-mail me at robert.kohnert@mpls.k12.mn.us.

**Important Course Information**

All course material is available at [www.aphumgeo.weebly.com](http://www.aphumgeo.weebly.com) The password to access the site in aphumgeo

There is a calendar listed under the “Calendar” tab that will show the upcoming schedule for the entire course. A more detailed schedule can be found under each unit’s “Resources/Study Guides” tab.

On this site, you will find copies of the syllabus as well as schedules and resources for the course. To access this, you will scroll over the unit we are in and click on “Resources/Study Guide”.

Students will be required to complete weekly assignments that can be found under the “Weekly Assignments” tab when you scroll over the unit. Weekly Assignments usually consist of one or two videos with the total time being between 10-20 minutes. Students will complete a short quiz as they follow along with the video. These are to be completed by Monday night at midnight (some exceptions).

Students will need to complete textbook readings. The frequency is dependent on the unit and how many chapters are in that unit. Most weeks, students will be required to read to Key Issues that generally total 15-20 pages. They will have a packet to complete that is to be turned in on Tuesdays.

Students will not be taking vocabulary matching quizzes. Instead, they will be completing vocabulary webs where they must apply the word to demonstrate understanding. The frequency is dependent on the unit and how many chapters are in that unit. The vocabulary webs will be due on Wednesdays.

Students will also have supplemental readings. These will consist of a variety of resources including other textbooks and nonfiction literature. The readings will range between 10-25 pages. Students will have to complete a SQ3R worksheet that will accompany the reading. SQ3R worksheets will be due on Thursdays.

Students will also complete a weekly assessment over the material we covered each week. The assessment will be approximately 15 questions with a mix of multiple choice and short answer. After the assessment, students will usually have time to work on assignments for the next week.

Weekly Assignment Schedule:

Monday: Online Video Weekly Assignment by midnight Thursday: SQ3R for Readings

Tuesday: Key Issue Packets due Friday: Weekly Assessment in Class

Wednesday: Vocabulary Webs

**Projected** Course Schedule:

**Semester I**

**Unit 1 – Overview of Human Geography – 2 weeks**

Essential Questions:

What is Human Geography?

How to use maps/ what do maps tell us?

How do geographic concepts help us answer geographic questions?

How do we interpret the world using geography?

*Text: “Human Geography” Rubenstein – Chapter 1*

**Unit II – Population Geography- 5 weeks**

Essential Questions:

How is the world’s populations distributed and why?

What affects demographic make -up of places?

Why is population composition important to a place?

Why do people migrate?

How do governments affect population patterns?

How is population related to economic development?

*Text: “Human Geography” Rubenstein- Chapters 2 and 3*

**Unit III –Agricultural Geography – 5 weeks**

Essential Questions:

How does geography affect economic development?

What is agriculture?

Where did agriculture begin and diffuse?

How did industrialization affect agriculture?

How are globalization and agriculture related?

*Text: “Human Geography” Rubenstein- Chapter 10*

**Unit IV- Development and Industry (Economic) Geography- 4 weeks**

What was the Industrial Revolution? Where did it start and how did it diffuse?

Weber’s theory of agglomeration and least cost theory

Hoteliing’s locational interdependence

What are the industrial regions in the U.S. and the world now and in the past?

How has globalization affect the location of industrial regions?

How have service industry changed cultures and economies?

*Text: “Human Geography” Rubenstein- Chapters 9 and 11*

**Unit IV – Political Geography - 5 weeks**

Essential Questions:

How are nations’ and states’ borders decided?

How /why do borders change and why are their conflicts over borders?

How does nationalism and sovereignty affect international agreements?

How do supranational organizations affect geopolitics?

How does colonialism still affect world economics and conflicts today?

*Text: “Human Geography” Rubenstein- Chapter 8*

**Semester 2**

**Unit V – Cultural Geography – 5 weeks**

Essential Questions:

What is culture and cultural characteristics?

How does culture affect place and place affect culture?

What encourages and discourages the spread of cultural traits?

How are cultures/cultural traits similar and different at various scales?

*Text: “Human Geography” Rubenstein – Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7*

**Unit VI – Urban Geography – 3 weeks**

Essential Questions:

When and why did cities begin?

Where are cities located and why?

How has the location of major cities changed over time?

How are cities organized?

*Text: “Human Geography” Rubenstein – Chapters 12 and 13*

**Review for AP Exam 2/3 Weeks**

**AP Exam, Friday May 13 at 8 a.m.**

***\*I understand that I will be encouraged to take the AP Exam on May 13th (Not Required)***

I have read and I understand how the above guidelines will help me to succeed in Geography Class.

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(PRINT student name here)

(**Student** signature)

Parents/Guardians: I have read the class expectations and I will support my son/daughter’s effort in Geography class.

\*\*\*\*(Parent/Guardian signature)

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*Parents: **Please sign up for the parent portal**, I communicate via email through the parent portal.