

ADVANCED PLACEMENT HUMAN GEOGRAPHY – MR. SICHAK (csichak@wcpss.net)

Spring Semester 2017, Room M210
SMART Lunch – Wednesday and Friday

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 the Earth's surface. At the conclusion of the course students should be able to use and think about maps and spatial data, understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places, recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes, define regions and evaluate the regionalization process, and characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places. – College Board

This course is an elective course and the equivalent to a college level course in human geography where students have the opportunity to receive college credit. The AP Exam for this course will be administered in May 2017. You may find more information about the course at <http://www.collegeboard.com/>.

Course Texts

- De Blij, H.J. *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture*. 9th. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2009.
- *Goode's World Atlas 21st Edition*. Ed. Howard Veregin. Skokie, Illinois: Rand McNally, 2005.

Supplies

- One and one-half or two inch three ring binder
- Blue or black pen or pencil
- Loose-leaf paper
- Optional items but suggested: colored pencils, highlighter glue stick and note cards

Evaluation

Nine Weeks Grade	Overall Course Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major Assignments (such as tests, projects and other performance-based assessments) - 70%• Minor Assignments (such as homework, quizzes, and class work) – 25%• Engagement – 5% (Journals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First nine weeks average – 40%• Second nine weeks average – 40%• Final exam (this is not the College Board administered exam but a teacher made one) – 20%

New 10 Point Scale

A= 100-90; B= 89-80; C=79-70; D= 69-60; F= 59-0

Attendance and Make-up Work

In the event of an absence, each student is responsible for making up his or her work. A student can make up work under the conditions listed in the *Panther Creek High School Student/Parent Handbook*. It is the student's responsibility to gather missing assignments and seek assistance on them from the teacher.

Late Work

Late major assignments will be penalized seven points for each day they are late. However, assignments that are more than five days late will not lose more than 35 points. For some late assignments, an alternative assignment may be given. Late minor assignments will be penalized 1 point on the 5 point scale for each day late. Completed minor assignments more than 5 days late will receive a 60%

Hall Passes/Tardies

Students will be excused from class for emergencies only. Students will need to use the restroom and gather materials prior to the tardy bell. Students are expected to be in their seat and ready to work when the tardy bell rings (this includes having pencil sharpened and having materials out). Excessive tardiness will be dealt with according to school policy.

Weebly and Remind

Announcements and homework will be posted daily on my Weebly website, www.mrsichakpchs.weebly.com, to help with assignments and content understanding. I send out remind messages about tests and homework. To join test 81010 and @sichak2 in the text field.

Academic Integrity

It is the student's responsibility to maintain integrity and uphold PCHS and WCPSS policies regarding cheating, plagiarism, falsification, violation of software copyright laws, and violation of computer access.

SMART Lunch

By school policy, students are expected to attend four (4) SMART Lunch sessions each quarter for each of their classes (eight SMART Lunch sessions total for AP Human Geography for the semester). Students who attend four (4) SMART Lunch sessions will receive eight (8) extra points on their participation grade and students who attend six (6) SMART Lunch sessions will receive five (5) extra points to their lowest test grade. Students will have the opportunity for tutorial, enrichment, or test corrections during SMART Lunch. Students who score below an 80 on a unit test may come in during SMART LUNCH to do test correction assignments. The assignments will vary on how many points are needed to improve the original grade. A maximum score of 80 may be attained through test correction assignments.

Basic Expectations

In respect to the learning environment and the advancement of each day's lesson, students are expected to meet the PCHS Basic Expectations:

1. Be present and on time.
2. Be prepared for and engaged in learning.
3. Be a person of character.
4. Be safe and comply with PCHS and WCPSS policies.

Course Overview

Unit	Description	Duration (approximate)
1: Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is human geography?• What are the key themes in geography?• How are maps used?• What sources of geographical ideas and data used?	8 days
2: Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What models are used to study demographics?• How are the stages of the demographic transition analyzed?• What is the relationship between population and movement?• How is population distributed and why does it change?• What are migration patterns and the causes of migration?	9 days
3: Cultural Patterns and Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the different cultural patterns and how are they diffused?• How do language, religion, ethnicity and gender impact cultural groups? How do they impact the cultural landscape?	15 days
4: Political Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does politics impact territories and the environment?• How does it define the regions?• What are the different geopolitical theories?	10 days
5: Agriculture and Rural Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the pattern of development and diffusion of agriculture?• What are the major agricultural production regions?• How does rural land use impact settlement patterns?• What theories are associated with land use and agriculture?	9 days
6: Industrialization and Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the key concepts industrialization and economic development?• How do industry and economy grow and diffuse?• What are the contemporary patterns and impacts of industrialization and development?	9 days
7: Cities and Urban Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the origin and evolution of cities?• What is the functional character of contemporary cities?• How does one define the built environment and social space?• What role does politics play in the physical and social organization of urban areas?	8 days

*AP Test Friday May 12th, 2017 at 8:00 am

Thank you for your time and attention. I am looking forward to our semester together and hopefully you will earn credits you can use in college. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,
Mr. Sichak