

Teacher: Mr. Jacob McKissick
Email: jmckissick@helenaschools.org
Office Hours: Before/after school via appointment



Mr. McKissick's Schedule

- 1st Period – Prep
- 2nd Period – World Studies
- 3rd Period – World Studies
- 4th Period – World Studies
- Lunch
- 5th Period – World Studies
- 6th Period – AP Human Geography
- 7th Period – Tutoring

Course Descriptions/Objectives

"AP Human Geography introduces high school students to college-level introductory human geography or cultural geography. The content is presented thematically rather than regionally and is organized around the discipline's main subfields; economic geography, cultural geography, political geography, and urban geography. The approach is spatial and problem oriented. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today. Historical information serves to enrich analysis of the impacts of phenomena such as globalization, colonialism, and human-environment relationships on places, regions, cultural landscapes, and patterns of interaction.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- *"Become more literate, more engaged in contemporary global issues, and more informed about multicultural viewpoints*
- *Develop skills in approaching problems geographically, using maps and geospatial technologies, thinking critically about texts and graphic images, interpreting cultural landscapes and applying geographic concepts such as scale, region, diffusion, interdependence, and spatial interaction, among others*
- *See geography as a discipline relevant to the work in which they live' as a source of ideas for identifying, clarifying, and solving problems at various scales; and as key components of building global citizenship and environmental stewardship"*

-AP Human Geography: Course and Exam Description

****As a side-note regarding 'AP.' So much of this course is mapped out for you via an approved 'AP College Board' consortium. However, it is up to you to dig deep into your brain banks, embrace the material, think critically, and ask pertinent and thought-provoking questions. You will be either taking the actual AP test early spring OR a test that best emulates the AP exam in my classroom for a grade if you choose to not sign up and take the college exam. You are, however, greatly encouraged to take the exam. Registration begins soon and what we do will prepare you for the test.**

Enjoy this class, you are about to learn a great deal.**

Roadmap Of Topic and Unit

Semester 1

As a class, we will explore the following:

- Unit I: Thinking Geographically
- Unit II: Population and Migration Patterns and Processes

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- Unit III: Cultural Patterns and Processes

Semester 2

- Unit IV: Political Patterns and Processes
- Unit V: Agriculture and Rural Land-Use Patterns and Processes
- Unit VI: Cities and Urban Land-Use Patterns and Processes
- Unit VII: Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes

To understand each of the themes, we will explore each topic through a variety of ways. For example: Lecture, readings (both primary and secondary), case studies, video, imagery, testimony, map and graph analysis, and various forms of writing that additionally support growth in literacy.

Analyzing our subject matter will become a large part in helping us understand why it is important to know how and why geography impacts our planet on a very in-depth scale. I will continually encourage, help mold, adapt, and build critical thinking skills with you along the way.

Expectations

- Students will be KIND, PREPARED, RESPECTFUL, POLITE, RESPONSIBLE, PRODUCTIVE, and become an ACTIVE PARTICIPANT in class and become a GRADUATE of HHS
- You are here, you are engaged, you are flexible with changing policies, you will adhere to what the school district and HHS decide upon for best and appropriate learning in terms of an array of rules, guidelines, and expectations. To further understand key points and items pertaining to school rules;

****Please refer to the '6-12 Student Learning Expectations' and/or our student/parent handbook for further guidance on what we as a school expect of you as a Bengal learner****

Required Materials

- A device appropriate for typing and using to assist in research as well as access materials provided in various forms of online resources
 - This can be personal OR school issued
 - We will be utilizing online required AP sources, therefore, expect to have a charged and accessible device daily
- We do not use the textbook a great deal, however, there are times when the textbook enhances our ability to grasp the material of study
 - If we do, the sections of the textbook will be uploaded to TEAMS and/or a hard copy will be provided to students during class-time
- A notebook to stay organized to take notes and collect/store the materials you are given
 - The best option is a 3-ring binder with loose leaf paper
 - Usage of the binder has been allowed on semester finals in the past
- You must have a blue/black pen or a pencil (*Work will NOT be graded if done in anything other than the aforementioned*)
 - We will be utilizing the online AP sources, therefore, expect to have a charged and accessible device daily

Homework Policy

- Students are expected to turn in homework on the day in which it is due
- As a class we will work together to come up with a manageable system and realistic loss of points. This can be based on the amount of time allowed to turn a task in on time and how late a

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task is to determine the overall acceptance of late work and for what grade

- Make-up work (*due to absence*) will be an ongoing discussion and will be mapped out in accordance with school policy while also recognizing unexpected circumstances
 - Please note: IF you are missing a day or days in the classroom due to a school sponsored or school related activity, the expectation is that your homework is collected from your teacher prior to you leaving and is due upon your return

Testing Policy

- Throughout the course of the year there will be a series of quizzes and/or tests at the end of each unit
 - There will be various forms of assessments distributed to make sure I am aware you truly grasp the content
 - The best way to do well on an assessment is to stay organized, do your homework, keep up on readings, participate in class, maintain consistent attendance, and study for exams

Grading Policy

- Each semester is based on total point
 - Quarter 1&2 90%
 - Semester finals are worth 10% of the overall points
 - Grades can be a combination of student's daily work, homework, in-class activities, quizzes, participation, and tests throughout the course of each semester

The above policy will remain unless directed from administration on any changes

Attendance

- Due to our current climate of an almost 40% chronic disengagement toward school by students (Forbes magazine/Center on Education Policy [CEP]) I am willing to work with the current climate and address the need to encourage consistent attendance more readily, therefore:
 - Daily attendance records will be kept and documented in PowerSchool
 - You are expected to be in class everyday
 - NOTE: There may be additional incentives/grades/policy within the classroom regarding a participation grade, which cannot penalize you, only enhance your grade by the end of each quarter

