

INSTRUCTOR- Matthew Oates

CONTACT INFORMATION

I may be reached by phone (270-338-9409) or by e-mail (matt.oates@muhlenberg.kyschools.us ). A response should be expected within 24 hours on weekdays and by the next school day on weekends and holidays. If a response is not received within that time frame, please contact me again. You may also find course information on our class website- <http://mchsoates.weebly.com> .

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Although you are in this class, you may still have no idea what the class is actually about.. Human Geography entails pretty much all of life. Human Geography is about the here and now. It is about people and how geography shapes people. It is about groups of people interacting with other groups of people. Unlike traditional geography courses, Human Geography is not about simple place location; instead it goes much deeper into the successes and struggles of various societies (including our own). Advanced Placement Human Geography is a two-semester course that analyzes the relationship between people and space. The specific units examined during the course include the nature of and perspectives on geography, population geography, cultural geography, political geography, agricultural and rural geography, economic geography, and urban geography. For each unit, students are required to link the material studied to current issues at various levels (local, national, and global).

KENTUCKY CORE CONTENT

(for specific information on these standards please visit http://www.education.ky.gov/users/OTL/CCA%204%201%20FINAL/CCA\_41\_SS\_HS.doc)

SS-HS-1.1.3, SS-HS-2.2.1, SS-HS-2.3.1, SS-HS-3.2.1, SS-HS-3.4.3, SS-HS-4.1.1, SS-HS-4.1.2, SS-HS-4.1.3, SS-HS-4.2.1, SS-HS-4.2.2, SS-HS-4.2.3, SS-HS-4.2.4, SS-HS-4.3.1, SS-HS-4.3.2, SS-HS-4.4.1, SS-HS-4.4.2, SS-HS-4.4.3, SS-HS-5.1.1, SS-HS-5.1.2

COURSE GOALS

By the end of the course you should develop the skills that enable you to:

1. Use and think about maps and spatial data. Maps are the primary tool of geographers and have many different purposes. You should be able to effectively use and interpret maps.
2. Understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places. You should be able to hypothesize the geographical implications of various locations and understand relationships amongst places.
3. Recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes. You should be able to compare and contrast at local and global levels.
4. Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process. Regions are a key unit of examination in cultural geography. Knowing the development process for key cultural regions is essential.
5. Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places. You should be able to analyze how places are connected with each other and how space impacts this interconnectedness. You should be able to not only describe interconnectedness amongst places and changes in those connections, but take things a step further and analyze how and why those changes are occurring.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

40% Presentations, Projects, Papers, Homework, Class participation, and Binder

Students will have a major project for each semester (a research project first semester and a service learning project second semester) that will account for the most points in this category. In addition to the major semester project, students will be assigned periodic papers, class presentations, and smaller projects. Most Wednesdays are a “What’s Happening Day” where students are required to bring in and share relevant current events. All students will complete vocabulary for each unit as well.

40% Tests

Tests are given during each unit and one comprehensive test is given prior to the AP test. All tests are timed and students must finish within the allotted time.

20% Quizzes

Students can expect quizzes to be given frequently. Quizzes may be multiple choice, short answer, essay, or a combination of question formats. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced. Almost every Friday the class meets (beginning a few weeks into the school year) students will take a “Flashback Friday” quiz that relates to previous material. Almost every Thursday the class meets is “Thinking Thursday” and students will have a quiz on recent material. Quizzes may not be made up (note: students will NOT receive a zero as long as the absence is excused, if the absence is excused the student is simply exempt from the quiz). Students who miss a quiz are encouraged to ask for a copy of the quiz upon their return.

Weekly assignments and assessments- MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

MAP MONDAYS- Map analysis

TASK TUESDAY- Project work time

WHAT’S HAPPENING WEDNESDAY-Current events related to class topics

THINKING THURSDAY- Quiz on current material

FLASHBACK FRIDAY- Quiz on previous material

GRADING SCALE

A 92–100%

B 83–91%

C 73–81%

D 65–72%

U Below 60%

GRADE POINT AVERAGE- QUALITY POINTS

Advanced Placement (AP) grades are weighted on a sliding 5.0 scale as follows:

A 5.00

B 3.75

C 2.50

D 1.25

U 0

LATE WORK POLICY

The research projects, presentations, and papers will NOT be accepted late. Other late work will be accepted with a 10% penalty for being 1 class period late and a 50% penalty for being 2 classes late. Work more than 2 classes late will receive a zero. Late work must be submitted during the class period. E-mailed work will NOT be accepted. If your assignment is to be typed or requires on-line research then make sure you plan ahead. Printer and computer issues are not acceptable excuses.

EXTRA CREDIT POLICY

Extra credit is typically only awarded when students go above and beyond the requirements for course assignments. The only other extra credit that will be considered is extra credit that involves a relevant enrichment experience. Any enrichment extra credit must be approved ahead of time. My philosophy on extra credit is that if students are unable to excel on the basic requirements of the course that extra credit will only act as a further detriment to mastery of course goals. ***Instead of seeking extra credit students are encouraged to use course assignments as a performance gauge, to complete all reading assignments, to ask questions in class, and to seek extra help when needed.***

MAKE UP WORK POLICY

Students are responsible for acquiring all make up work and scheduling a time to make up material. It is highly suggested that if an absence is planned ahead of time (i.e. for a field trip) students must ask for work PRIOR to their absence. Students are encouraged to make sure to minimize class absences as a lot of the work simply cannot be duplicated (i.e. viewing another student’s notes is not the same as taking part in the class discussion).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any type of academic dishonesty is unacceptable. Academic dishonesty includes giving or receiving answers on any type of assignment (homework, essay, quiz, test, etc.), plagiarism, and providing information about assessments to other students. Academic dishonesty will result in a zero on the assignment, a zero for participation, and a disciplinary referral. In addition, the instructor will write negative recommendations for organizations such as the National Honor Society for anyone who fails to display academic integrity. If students have any doubt regarding what constitutes academic dishonesty they should ask the instructor immediately.

\*Similar to a college course, the emphasis is on mastery of a few major assignments as opposed to having a large quantity of smaller assignments.

EXPECTATIONS

 Be present, on time, and have all materials.

 Show respect to your peers and instructor.

 Do all assigned readings and other assignments.

 Only ask to leave class if absolutely necessary.

 Participate in class.

 Have a positive attitude.

 Follow all established school rules.

MATERIALS

 Textbook: Yet to be Determined

 Large 3-ring binder with paper

 Pens, pencils, highlighters, colored pencils



Review book- Textbook-

Parent Signature Required for 1st Grade and to continue in class:

Parent Signature :\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature :\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_