**Human Geography [HUG] Student Syllabus – Mr. Kolodinski**

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**Class website: mrkolodinski.weebly.com / Human Geography tab**

**Course Description:** Human Geography is a semester course in which students systematically study the patterns and processes that have shaped our understanding, use, and alteration of Earth’s surface. Students will learn to predict patterns and analyze data around the world and will also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and application. Students will gain an understanding of conflicts around the world and how globalization affects the United States.

**Textbook & Supplemental Sources:** Contemporary Human Geography, 3rd Edition by James Rubenstein. PLEASE BRING YOUR BOOK AS INSTRUCTED. \*Due to the time constraints of a semester course, please note that we are only covering chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. If time allows, based on our progress, we may add additional units of study.

Students will conduct research, and read and process articles from a variety of relevant publications, newspapers, and websites to supplement their textbook. Some of the key supplemental websites and publications include:

* Newsela.com
* Upfront Magazine (NY Times)
* US Census Bureau
* Listenwise.com
* Ted Talk
* CNN 10 (Student News)
* Scoopit.com
* Various newspapers

**What will we be learning?** Basically, the WHY of WHERE across the globe. We will focus on certain key broad topics, research them as they apply and impact the world in which we live, know & understand the issues associated with them and their impact on human beings, and then communicate our knowledge and informed opinions in a constructive manner.

* Chapter 1: Thinking Geographically
* Chapter 2: Population Trends
* Chapter 3: Migration Trends
* Chapter 4 (plus some 5, 7 & 10): Folk & Popular Culture, Language and Ethnicity & Food as it applies
* Chapter 6 (plus some 7): Religion & Ethnicity (as it applies)
* Chapter 8: Political Geography

**Grading Scale & Categories:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Letter Grade  | 4 Point Scale  | % Range | Letter Grade | 4 Point Scale | % Range  |
| A | 3.6 – 4.0 | 90-100% | D | 1.0 – 1.8x | 25-47% |
| B | 2.9 – 3.5x | 73-89% | F, Not Passing | 0.0 – 0.9x | 00-24% |
| C | 1.9 – 2.8x | 48-72% |  |  |  |

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**Final Semester Cumulative Grade** is based on the following three weighted categories:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Category | Weight % of Final Grade |
| Projects, Exams, Quizzes & Written Assessments | 45% |
| Required assignments (classwork, fieldwork, KBATs & homework) | 35% |
| Diligence, Effort & Active Participation | 20& |

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating is ANY unauthorized sharing of information. Cheating is not limited to exams, but includes ANY assignment that has not been designated by your teacher as group work. All parties involved will receive a zero on the assignment and appropriate disciplinary consequences based on GHS policy.

**Behavior Expectations:** We will be following the **“Nitro Way”** and focusing on being **Respectful** to self and others in all settings on campus, **Engaged** in the learning process in an appropriate manner and **Dedicated** by being on time, prepared for class, appropriately focused on the task at hand and cooperative by following all class procedures. Please read, review and KNOW **The Nitro Way** posters in the classroom and on the class website for more detailed information.

**Late Work and Extra Credit:**

* Late work, unless pre-arranged, is penalized by a grade reduction. Each case will be judged on its own merit, and the overall quality of the completed assignment so provide an explanation by contacting your instructor in advance of any due date.
* Late work MUST be turned in prior to the next assessment (quiz, test or project), generally one week
* Extra Credit DOES NOT EXIST for this class as a rule. See the class website for any periodic “special offer” and any associated due date. Otherwise DO NOT ASK!

**Contacting Mr. Kolodinski:** If you or your parent or guardian wishes to speak to me please **come see me before or after class** or **text** via the Remind app after signing up for it. **Parents email me** when possible (**rkolodinski@gusd.net**), I usually respond within 24 hours of receiving it and make further arrangements from there. If calling the school is preferred then call **(818) 242-3161, ext. 84318 and leave a message**, I will respond within 24 hours of receiving the message.

Let’s have a great semester together and learn from each other!