SYLLABUS: Human Geography CP — Riverside High School

Instructor: Caleb Brown

Office Hours: by appointment in morning

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Course Overview

In Geography CP, students will examine the relationships among people, places, and environments that result in patterns on the Earth's surface. Students use the tools and methods of geography to study the principal themes, such as the influence of geography on the events of the past and present, and analyze how location affects economic activities in different economic systems throughout the world. Students compare how components of culture shape the characteristics of regions and analyze the impact of technology and human modifications on the physical environment. Students use problem-solving and decision-making skills to ask and answer geographic questions.

Framework

This Course will align with the following:

- Alignment with South Carolina Standards
- Alignment with Profile of the South Carolina Graduate
- Learning & enrichment opportunities aligned with the coursework of the Social Studies CP level
- An expectation of quality work the learner is equipped to produce
- Diverse learning strategies as:
  - Student-initiated research
  - Student engagement and collaboration
  - Project-based learning
  - Problem-solving and critical thinking
  - Creativity and innovation

Goals and Objectives

Students will be provided with a variety of instructional strategies in order to engage each student and enhance his/her knowledge of Geography. The class is student-centered, with a wide range of activities consisting of group and individual learning opportunities, with research projects and writing assignments.

Applying vocabulary for each topic will be valuable to gain a complete overview of Geography. Students will be able to explore their strengths as learners and also be able to use those strengths to excel in all different areas of the classroom environment. Through the range of activities presented throughout the year, the student will be able to fine tune their learning strengths in order to be successful in future social studies classes.

Students will be able to meet the required South Carolina State Standards for Geography by the end of the course. We will be covering the following SC State Standards this semester:

HG – 1: Demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.
HG – 2: Demonstrate an understanding of the conditions, interconnections, and levels of economic development across Earth's surface.
HG – 3: Demonstrate and understand the characteristics of culture and cultural patterns and processes across Earth's surface.
HG – 4: Demonstrate an understanding of how cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface.
HG – 5: Demonstrate an understanding of the distribution, function, patterns, and processes of human settlement across Earth's surface.

Student Supplies List (Suggestions/Not Required)

One Inch 3-ring Binder with 10 dividers/tabs
Colored pencils
Pencil/Dark Blue or Black Pens ONLY
Earbuds
Highlighters
College Ruled Notebook Paper

Course Requirements

Grading Policy:

A: 100-90
B: 89-80

C: 79-70
D: 69-60
F: 59-0

Assessment Tools

Major Assessments 60%

- Includes any tests, benchmarks, projects, or major essay assignments

Minor Assessments 40%

- Classwork, quizzes, homework

Final Exam will count as 20% of the final grade, as determined by district policy

Tests:

Students can expect at least one test every six weeks, which will cover an entire unit of study, containing multiple chapters. Tests will be announced no later than one week before the test day. Projects will be assigned within each unit as determined by the teacher. Students will also complete formal assessments on each unit in order to demonstrate their knowledge of Geography.

Expectations from Student

Attend on time. Keep up on all readings. Bring materials to class. Turn in all assignments. Participate in discussions.

Check the class Google Classroom regularly for assignments and updates.

Be thoughtful and civil to classmates and the instructor.

Please do not eat in class.

Turn off phones completely & place them in a bookbag.

General Policies

Academic Misconduct: Cheating in any form compromises your grade and lowers the quality of your education. Classmates who cheat may actually lower your grade by inflating grades, etc. Please make a point to read the Student Handbook regulations on academic dishonesty. To clarify, using someone's work without giving that person proper credit (i.e. properly citing them) or passing other people's work off as your own is considered plagiarism regardless of whether you got the material from a book, the Web or your best friend.

Written Work Policy**:** Students are expected to use correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar in all of your written work. Typed work is preferred whenever possible, unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Complete citations for each source used in written work is expected. Assignments are always due in class on the day designated. Emailed papers are not an acceptable mechanism for submitting papers unless instructed. Furthermore, students are responsible for any work lost due to technical problems, etc.

Students are responsible for all work, including notes and assignments, when absent.

If a student is absent on test day, tests may be made up within 5 days of returning to school. Students must turn in work the day they return if they were in class the day the assignment was given. If absent on the day a project is due, a student MUST turn in the project upon return or late penalties will be applied. When you are absent, please email me for your work from that day.

See RHS student handbook for attendance, late work, and tardy policy.

Students are to be in their seats when the bell rings.

All students late to class must report to attendance for an admission slip to class from the front office.

Guardian Contact:

Guardians are encouraged to check their student's grades via PowerSchool online. They will be able to access all of the students graded assignments and view missing assignments. Guardians are free to email or call the instructor at any time with questions regarding their student's progress. Parents/Guardians will be contacted by the teacher in the event that the student is habitually truant, misbehaves in class, is in danger of failing, or with any other concerns the teacher may have.

Topics Covered - (Any part of this syllabus is subject to change to accommodate class progress)

Units of Study
U1 5 Themes of Geography
U2 Population
U3 Migration
U4 Culture & Religion
U5 Political Organization & Language
U6 Rural Land Use
U7 Urban Land Use, Development, & Globalization

Generative AI

This course may utilize generative AI tools, such as MagicSchool and Google Gemini, to supplement traditional instruction. Greenville County Schools prioritizes the ethical use of these technologies for brainstorming and self-guided learning.

- **Critical Thinking First:** AI must not replace original thought or coursework.
- **Academic Integrity: Using AI to complete and submit assignments as original work constitutes plagiarism.** **And will result in a zero**
- **Required Citation:** If teacher-approved, all AI use must be properly cited.
- **Content Awareness:** Students must remain vigilant regarding potential biases and inaccuracies in AI-generated content.
- **Policy Compliance:** All AI programs align with GCS Board Policy and Administrative Rule IA.