

**AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

Ms. McDonald

Kamiakin High School

Room 502 - 2017-2018

**CLASS DESCRIPTION/ STRUCTURE:**

This course examines the intricate structures between various peoples and societies in the world. According to College Board, the information discussed throughout the school year is equivalent to one semester-long college course. Throughout the course, we will be comparing people and events from the past to people and events in our world’s modern history and present day.

Units of study:

1. Geography, Perspective, & Development V. Political Organization
2. Population & Migration VI. Agriculture & Rural Land Use
3. Cultural Patterns & Processes VII. Industrialization & Economic Development VIII. Cities & Urban Land Use

**WORKLOAD:**

This class is a college-level class and consequently requires college-level reading and writing skills. Students must be able to comprehend, summarize, and compare information presented in the textbook and possess a high reading level, as there will be up to **45 minutes of reading homework assigned daily**. In this class students must be able to clearly articulate their understanding of the content verbally and in short answer and multi-paragraph essays using research to support their writing. This class is designed to be challenging and ultimately prepare students for academic and business successes. It will be hard, but I am dedicated to work with all students who are willing and make an effort to be academically prepared daily.

Students are expected to take detailed notes and definitions of key vocabulary terms throughout each unit.

**ASSESSMENTS:**

Unit assessments are designed to prepare students to take the AP test for college credit, and consequently mirror their structure and difficulty. Tests are administered over the course of two days and consist of multiple choice and written response questions. Occasionally we will review as a class, however students are expected to be prepared without review time in class.

**MATERIALS:**

Daily materials include:

* Pencil/eraser
* Lined paper
* 2 inch binder with 8 tab dividers
* Class Website (kanohistory.weebly.com)

The primary textbook is listed below, however various resources will be used including video clips, pictures, newspaper articles, radio clips, maps, and graphs.

Textbook: *The Cultural Landscape*, 10th Edition (2011) by James M. Rubenstein.

**THE BIG 5:**

In order to create a positive learning environment I have 5 primary classroom rules.

* **Respect -** treat me, your peers, and class materials with respect.
* **Negative Language -** no putdowns toward others or *yourself*.
* **Phones -** no personal phone use during class, it detracts from learning. If phones are used without permission the phone will be taken.
* **Talking While I’m Talking -** here’s the deal, if you can’t hear the lesson or instructions then you can’t learn.
* **Cheating -** you are capable of completing your own work. If cheating occurs proper consequences will be given according to the school policies.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will result in the following steps:

1. Verbal warning
2. One-on-one discussion with teacher
3. Office referral
4. Parent Conference
5. Removal from classroom

**GRADE CALCULATION:**

All assignments are due at the beginning of class and grades are calculated and assigned based on a combination of the following; completion, accuracy, effort, and timeliness. Participation points are often assigned for in-class activities such as group work and discussions.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | 93-100% | **B** | 83-86% | **C** | 73-76% | **D** | 60-66% |
| **A-** | 90-92% | **B-** | 80-82% | **C-** | 70-72% | **F** | < 59% |
| **B+** | 87-89% | **C+** | 77-79% | **D+** | 67-69% |  |  |

**ATTENDANCE & LATE WORK:**

* Students with **excused** absences can make up any work assigned on the day of their absence for full credit.
* Students with **unexcused** absences can make up work assigned on the day of their absence for ½ credit.
* Any assignments due on the day of absence are due the day the student returns to class.
* Students must be in-class to receive any participation points.
* **All assignments must be completed and submitted by the end of the unit in which they were assigned. Any assignment submitted after the unit test/project will receive a score of 0.**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Effective communication is important to your success as a student in this class. Please start the dialogue if you have any questions: [margaret.mcdonald@ksd.org](mailto:margaret.mcdonald@ksd.org).

**~ PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE OF SYLLABUS ~**

**(by Friday, September 1st)**

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Please review the syllabus with parents/guardians. Sign and return this page to show that you read and understand the expectations and procedures within the classroom.

**Printed Student Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Best Parent Contact Phone #’s:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**~ STUDENTS & PARENTS ~**

I’d love to learn more about your family. If there is anything you would like to share with me about yourself, or your son or daughter please write below.