

Mrs. McCusker's Policies and Procedures for AP Human Geography

Assignments and Grading Policy:

- A. Your grade is determined by a point system. Each assignment or test is worth a certain number of points and your grade is based on the number of points you earn. Grades are available via Aeries. A 100-90, B 89-80, C 79-70, D 69-60, F 59 and below.
- B. Always turn in work when it is due. Late work is worth half credit, and it must be turned in at the beginning of the next period. If you are absent, *you* are responsible for collecting any missed work. Please check my webpage for missed assignments. If you are absent on the day of a major test or when an assignment is due, please arrange to turn it in early, or for someone else to bring it to class.
- C. *Copied work will result in a zero for all parties involved and school/district policy will be followed.* Working with fellow students is encouraged and can be quite valuable. However, make sure that all work is composed in your own words. *Assignments that are identical in all ways will be considered plagiarized.*
- D. All assignments should be easily legible and written in ink. If your handwriting is reminiscent of chicken scratch, type your papers! All homework assignments should be answered completely. That means you should restate the question and use complete sentences. Answers that don't follow this format will be considered incomplete.
- E. Throughout the year, students will participate in Socratic Seminars. In order to participate in the Socratic Seminar, students must have read and annotated the entire text. If it is incomplete or missing from class, the student will receive a zero. There is no makeup for a missed Socratic Seminar

Attendance and Tardy Policy

- A. Tardies will be recorded and referrals issued according to LVUSD attendance policy. You will receive a tardy if you have to leave to get supplies, books, etc. You will be considered tardy if you are not in your seat or heading to it when the bell rings.
- B. After an excused absence, one day is given for each day absent to make up work for full credit. This pertains only to one-day assignments and tests. Tests will not be made up during class time. If absent on the day of the test, the test must be made up on the day of your return in order to receive full credit. Make up tests will *only* be given during Support. Please make arrangements to arrive early, as some make-up exams will require more time.
- C. Any unexcused absences will be handled according to LVUSD policy. Make-up work will not be accepted for unexcused absences.

Discipline

- A. A school classroom is not your personal playpen. I will give you the freedom to bring food and drink into the class as long as you do not abuse that freedom. Before you leave class, I expect you to clean up any and all trash you bring into class. If the classroom is left a mess, consequences will be applied.
- B. It is expected that you will respect all members of the class. Personal attacks, no matter how intentioned, will not be tolerated.
- C. You are expected to pay attention in class. Sleeping, doodling, listening to music, talking to friends and writing notes to friends are all inappropriate. The vast majority of what you need to know will be discussed in class. Actions that distract the rest of the class will

not be tolerated and sympathy will not be distributed to those who do not respect the course.

- D. Cell phones are not to be used during class without the teacher's permission. School policy will be followed.

Honor Code

As with any class, there are certain rules of conduct that must be followed.

- **Cheating:** Cheating will not be tolerated. Please refer to the district policy regarding cheating.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is considered cheating. Anything that is not your own work falls under the heading of plagiarism.
- **Respect:** In this class we will be discussing various viewpoints. Students must respect the classroom as a place for sharing ideas. Remember, we are discussing, not attacking or arguing.

How do I study for this course?

I know that many of you are concerned about what grade you will receive in this course. How do you get a good grade? First of all, always do the assigned reading before we go over it in class. Reading is not assigned for my amusement, but to assist your learning process. As you are reading, ask yourself if you really understand the material. Write down questions as they occur to you and bring them to class. If your questions are not answered in class, ask me!!! Participation is of vital importance. Challenge the material, offer your own opinions, think!!! There is no such thing as a stupid question. Once we have covered material in class, go home and do the homework associated with that subject matter to ensure that you understand it. Make sure to do all assignments. They are not given as busy work, but rather for you to gather a better understanding of the material. If you follow this process, I believe you will find that studying for tests will become a more simple matter, and you will succeed in this class.

I am looking forward to a great year and to learning together!

Please visit the my web page and print out the signature sheet and have it signed by your parents and returned to class tomorrow. It is your first assignment and it is worth five points. There is no late credit for this assignment, but you must still turn it in.

Directions to access my web page:

Go to kmccusker.weebly.com

Click on the *AP Human Geography* tab along the top of the page

Choose *Introduction to Human Geo*

Below "Documents," choose *Policies and Procedures Parent Signature Sheet*

Please print it and have your parents sign it.

Return to class on our next meeting for an easy 5 points 😊