



## Human Geography

### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to explore how the *way* people live is affected by *where* they live. Students will study spatial patterns to examine how people make use of space with topics such as migration, agriculture, and political geography. We will also be studying the environmental consequences that are associated with the geographic issues presented in this course. Students will be looking for patterns in different cultures, identifying trends, and then trying to imagine how cultures might change and grow in the future. As a class, we will also bring certain skills to study these patterns and trends at a more local level and apply them to the very diverse Grand Rapids area. Lastly, students will explore different methods and tools used by geographers in their practice.

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, WMAA students will be able to:

- Use and think about maps and spatial data.
- Understand and interpret the implications of association among phenomena in certain places or regions.
- Recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes.
- Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process.
- Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places.
- Explain and analyze challenges to the internal development and external interdependence of societies, nation-states, and countries.
- Describe and analyze increasing global connections resulting in political, economic, and social outcomes.
- Compare social, economic, and political systems that impacted regional and local developments.

### Textbooks

We will be using: **The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography** by James M. Rubenstein

Additionally, we will be supplementing with various primary sources.

### Grades

Students will earn a final grade each semester based on mastery of the course objectives. The cumulative semester course work will comprise 20% of the final semester grade, and assessments and projects will comprise 60% of the final semester grade. A cumulative semester exam will comprise 20% of the final semester grade. The final semester grade will be used in determining a student's grade point average (GPA).

## **Coursework**

WMAA will provide additional opportunities for students to show mastery of standards. Communication will occur frequently between teachers, students, and their parent/guardian concerning missing work. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the teacher to determine the action plan.

*If coursework is not turned in on time, a zero will be recorded in the grade book until the work is submitted. This zero will be accompanied in the grade book with a "missing" marker so that the reason for the zero is evident. If the allowable time period to make up the work has passed, the zero will become a permanent grade.*

An item of late coursework may still be turned in for a grade, but the grade will automatically have 20% taken off. Students will have until the unit test which occurs at the end of each unit to make up work they missed during that unit of study. After the unit test, all zeros recorded in the grade book during that unit will become permanent.

Students are encouraged to advocate for themselves if they feel they need additional time on assignments or assessments. Extended time may be offered on a case-by-case basis at the teachers' discretion. Requests for extra time must be made at least 24 hours before any tests or quizzes are to be taken and at least 24 hours before any assignment is due. Please understand that not all requests for extra time will be granted.

## **Testing**

A student's mastery of academic standards is determined through performance on unit tests, projects, and cumulative semester exams. The Social Studies department will provide students with limited additional opportunities to demonstrate master of academic standards.

### Test Corrections:

Students have the opportunity to correct mistakes made on tests to earn half-credit back on missed questions. When doing test corrections, students must do the following in order to get half credit back:

- Correct answer
- Citation: Page number from textbook or slide from PowerPoint where they got the correct answer.
- 1 complete sentence **quote from the textbook** that shows why the new answer is the correct answer.

### Example:

The Buddha taught that those who live by the Eightfold Path can attain nirvana, or

A pleasures and material goods.

B life after death.

C a state of perfect peace.

D reincarnation.

Correct Answer: C

Page Number: 104

Quote from textbook: "The Buddha taught that those who followed the Eightfold Path could attain **nirvana**, a state of perfect peace in which the soul would be free from suffering forever."

**Students must have ALL steps in order to receive half credit back.**

**Test Corrections must be turned in 1 week after handed back to the student.**

## Policies and Expectations

**Absence:** It is very important to be in class, as each day's content builds on the previous day's work. When absent, it is the student's responsibility to get all missed work and set up a time to meet with the teacher if necessary in order to clear up any confusion. For each day of class missed, students are allowed one day to make up the missed work. All work turned in late must be accompanied by a note explaining why it is late (so that I know that it is late due to absence). Any time a student misses class, it is encouraged that they check the course website to see what was done in class that day so that they are aware of what will need to be done to catch up.

**Tardiness:** All students are expected to be in their assigned classroom before the final bell sounds. Any student that comes to class after the bell, but within the first 10 minutes of class will be marked tardy for that class period. Any student arrives more than 10 minutes late to a class will be considered absent for that class period. Habitual tardiness will be dealt with between the teacher, the student, and his or her family. If the problem persists, further conversations will occur between Mr. Fisher, the student, and his or her family to determine a plan of action to correct the behavior.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating and plagiarism will result in the student receiving no credit for the assessment. Restoration will be at teacher discretion.

West Michigan Aviation Academy Grading Scale			
Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point	
A	95-100%	4.0	
A-	90-94%	3.7	
B+	87-89%	3.3	
B	83-86%	3.0	
B-	80-82%	2.7	
C+	77-79%	2.3	
C	73-76%	2.0	
C-	70-72%	1.7	
F	0-69%	0.0	
INC	Incomplete Coursework	N/A	

## **Character Grades**

Additionally, students will be evaluated on their character choices for each course. The character evaluation will reflect student mastery of WMAA's critical character expectations: be respectful, be responsible and do your personal best.

3 – Exceeding Expectations

2 – Meeting Expectations

1 – Currently Not Meeting Expectations

## **Office Hours**

My offices hours are as follows:

7:45am - 8:50am

3:30pm - 4pm

I want all of my students to enjoy my class and to be successful! Students should feel free to visit before or after school for additional help in learning strategies or content that will help them succeed in the classroom. Students and parents are able to set up a meeting with me by appointment outside of these hours as well.

## **Contact Info**

[mcox@westmichiganaviation.org](mailto:mcox@westmichiganaviation.org)

<http://mcoxwmaa.weebly.com>

