

Welcome to 9th Grade World Geography
Mr. Jones' Class

“No excuses, whatever it takes, get it done.”

Course Description: This course is designed to have students examine major physical geographic components in the world. Students will learn and apply geographic and historical concepts as they learn the material. Particular attention will be given to the physical geography of an area and how that has impacted and continues to impact the cultures/people of that area

Overall Goals

- 1) Identify key people, events, problems, conflicts, & ideas in world geography & explain their historical significance.
- 2) Use maps and globes to acquire and process geographic information.
- 3) Identify place locations in the world, continents, oceans, major countries, cities, and physical features, specifically on several continents
- 4) Gain a greater awareness of world cultures and the connections of the modern world to each student.
- 5) Understand modern issues and their connectivity to those issues
- 6) Identify, define and apply the 5 themes of geography to various places in the world.
- 7) Understand and explain issues impacting the world today, such as population growth, climate change, globalization, and immigration.

Brief Outline of the course for the trimester:

Intro to class and ACHS

Geography A:

- 1) Unit One: Basic Map Reading and Geography Skills (including North America), genetically modified organisms, movement of ideas, and censorship
- 2) Unit Two: Geography of South America/Africa, immigration, spread of infectious disease
- 3) Unit Three: Geography of Australia/Antarctica, climographs, global warming, population pyramids
- 4) Unit Four: Geography of Asia/Europe, human footprint, population control, topographic maps

Throughout the semester, there will be an emphasis on reading, writing, and developing writing skills. As well as hands on practice, including the creation of a topographic map model, a cross-curricular project between Social Studies and Arts & Humanities, and a culminating project the ‘Geographic Periodic Table.’

Required Materials: Students will keep a notebook or binder in the classroom. Students must bring a writing utensil to class. Proper preparation prevents poor performance. Students coming to class without a writing utensil may borrow one for the class period.

Grading: There are four categories for your assignments in this class. These categories are: Class Work 15%, Homework 10%, Minor Assessments 10%, Major Assessments 45%, and a comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of the trimester, this makes up the final 20% of your grade.

Late work: I do not accept any late work for full credit. If you have chosen to turn in an assignment late, the maximum you can earn is 50%. ACHS policy will be followed for excused absences.

Anderson County High School Social Studies Department Mr. Jones' Class- World Geography

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to 9th grade world geography! It is a great pleasure to be your social studies teacher for this trimester. I am beginning my fourth year as a teacher and second at ACHS, I look forward to a great first trimester! I am very happy to be in my home state, Kentucky governor Albert B. (Happy) Chandler stated: "I never met a Kentuckian who wasn't either thinking about going home or actually going home." It is a great honor to be a part of the social studies department at ACHS. My educational background includes a BA & MA in Secondary Social Studies Education from the University of Kentucky.

As one of your sons or daughter's many guides through this challenging trimester in high school, I am confident that our 9th grade program will continue to lead to great student success at Anderson County High School. As educators, we are here to support students in their academic and behavioral maturation process. There is no challenge we cannot face together. For myself, I sum up my mission as a teacher in one word: commitment. I am passionately committed to assisting your son or daughter in becoming life-long learners, college or career ready, striving for excellence in all that they do in life. In this class we will be covering basic geography skills, the seven continents, and examining in depth some important issues that our world is facing. While my students will have a firm, solid foundation in content knowledge, they will also be learning how to think and process the information they will be examining. We will think globally in order to be better prepared for the changing world and to better understand the physical and cultural world that surrounds us.

I am very excited, and looking forward to an excellent trimester. You will be hearing from me this year through letters, grade sheets, and phone calls. If you need to contact me, I am available at school or on my cell phone (859-967-4484)—please feel free to call me anytime.

Thanks,

Mr. Jones