

**Anderson County High School**  
**Social Studies Department**  
**Mr. Nolan's Class – World Geography**

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to 9<sup>th</sup> grade world geography!!!! It is a great pleasure to be your social studies teacher for this trimester. I completed my tenth incredible year of teaching at ACHS last year and this year looks to be even better. Before moving back to Lawrenceburg in 2003, I taught 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade social studies for seven years in Cheyenne, Wyoming. It is a great honor to be teaching with a fantastic academic team in the same building where I graduated in 1983. My educational background includes a BA in history, BS in geography, MA in history all from the University of North Dakota, and my Middle and Secondary certification from Regis University in Denver, Colorado. I also have earned my National Certification in social studies.

As one of your son 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 greater student success at Anderson High. We are here to support them in their endeavors and challenges during the year. 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 and striving for excellence in all that they do in life.

In this class, my main focus will be for students to be geographers themselves—to become active participants in their learning and engaged in what is happening in the world. 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. They will be taking this two-prong approach in order to learn to think globally and be better prepared for the changing world they are in and to better understand the physical and cultural world that surrounds them.

I am looking forward to this fantastic semester! You will be hearing from me this year by letters, grade sheets, and phone calls. If you need to get a hold of me, I am available at school or at home (859-4787)—please feel free to call me anytime.

Thank you,

Mr. Nolan

“Success is commitment—not a wish.”



# Welcome to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade World Geography

## Mr. Nolan's Class

**"Those who say it cannot be done are being passed by those doing it."**

- Course Description:**
- Geography A:** This course is designed to have students examine the 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.
- Geography B:** This course is designed to have students examine the major cultural 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 cultural 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 the class and ACHS

#### **Geography A:**

- 1) Unit One: Basic Map Reading and Geography Skills (including North & Latin America)
- 2) Unit Two: Regions & Impact (includes Africa)
- 3) Unit Three: Human Environment Interaction (includes Antarctica & Australia)

#### **Geography B:**

- 1) Unit One: Asia/ Europe
- 2) Unit Two: Major Asian Cultures/Religions
- 3) Unit Three: Globalization/Population & Consumption/Immigration

Throughout the semester, there will be an emphasis on reading, writing, and developing writing skills.

- Required Materials:**
- Students will keep a notebook or binder in the classroom.  
Students must bring a writing utensil to the class—do not use a neon pen!

- Grading:**
- You will have three categories for your assignments in this class. These categories are:

Daily Work	45%
Exams	50%
In-class participation	5%

A Comprehensive Final Exam will be given at the end of the trimester.

Late work: I do not accept any late work for full credit. Instead if you have chosen to turn in an assignment late, the maximum you can earn is 50%. Please be aware that if you consistently choose to turn in late work, you will not pass this class, so make the right choice and turn in your work on time. If you have an excused absence we will follow ACHS policy regarding getting your late work in to me.

# Behavior Syllabus

## Procedures and Expectations

Procedure refers to how things are to be done in this classroom. Procedures are for your benefit by helping you to do your work with less confusion—leading to your success!

### Guidelines to be Successful in this Class:

- 1) Be responsible.
- 2) Always try.
- 3) Do *your* best.
- 4) Treat everyone including yourself with respect.
- 5) Follow the appropriate expectations for class activities.

### Class Rules:

- 1) Be to class on time with all of your materials.
- 2) Keep your hands, feet, objects, and objectionable comments to yourself.
- 3) Work during all times.
- 4) Follow directions immediately.

**Do...** your work—it is the number one key to success!  
sit where you are assigned.  
ask questions if you have them; simply raise your hand.  
be in your seat when the bell rings at the beginning and end of class.  
sharpen your pencil if you need to.  
go to the restroom BEFORE class—you get FIVE passes and that's it!  
listen when Mr. Nolan gives the attention signal of raising his hand and counting to five.

**Don't...** litter in my classroom—no food or drinks other than water or tea  
get out your phone or any electronic device—at all. If you can't read an old fashioned clock, it is time to learn.  
destroy, deface, or write on anything that is not yours.  
mess around in my "office".  
cheat on assignments by copying work!

### How should I behave in class?

1. I expect your best behavior in this class. We are here to learn and be educated, not to kick back and relax. *I will not tolerate any sleeping, inappropriate talking, inappropriate comments, foul language, horse-playing, other behavior that causes disruptions to the learning process of others in the class.* Quite simply, I want this classroom to be a safe place to learn and to allow you the opportunity to maximize your potential. Every person in this classroom deserves the right to learn.

If you do not meet these expectations, then I will do the following:

First Offense: I will give you a warning and I expect the behavior to be corrected.

Second Offense: You will owe me 30 min of detention either before or after school & I will call home.

Third Offense: Further corrective action will be required which may include a referral to the office.

If the behavior persists beyond a telephone call home or it is a major infraction, I will send you to Mrs. Wells.

### How should I behave during a video?

1. I expect that you will follow the general rules for behavior and raising your hand when watching a video. The videos that we watch will provide you with a reinforcement of material covered or an enrichment.
2. ALL videos will have a viewing guide with appropriate questions. You need to be completing these questions as you watch the video.

### How do I turn in an assignment?

1. I expect your assignments to be turned in to the person I assign to take up assignments.
2. Papers will then be placed in the proper place in the classroom.

### What do I do when someone else is talking?

1. Standard procedure is when I am talking to the class or another classmate is discussing an issue/asking a question, we all respect that person and listen. We will NOT talk but will raise our hand, wait our turn, and then voice our opinion or ask a question.

**What if I do not have a writing utensil or paper?**

1. You may purchase a pencil from me for \$.05. Do not bother others around you who came prepared. I use the money from pencils sales to replace color pencils that "disappear" throughout the year. If I have any spare pencil nubs or gnawed on pencils, these will be located on the table in the front of the room, you may use one of these for this class only. I want my nubs back!

**What if I finish my assignment before others?**

1. Work on any unfinished assignments or on the next assignment for this class.
2. Read a good book or work on homework for another class.

**What if I turn my work in late?**

1. I will accept your late work but with 50% credit.
2. Mark your work as "late" and the date turned in.
3. Any work NOT turned in during the period will be considered late.
4. There are certain days throughout the year when I will have a cut-off for turning in late work. I will let you know in plenty of time when those days are.

**Can I do work over?**

1. If your work does not meet my requirements, I will ask you to do it over until it does. In other words, do it right the first time. You must show proficiency on the standards and in order to do that, it might mean a re-do on an assignment or essay.

**What about homework?**

1. I would like to have most of the work completed in the classroom. If the class does not utilize their time appropriately, you will find that less time will be given to complete work in class and more to homework. In other words: let's use our time wisely in class, so we have less homework.

**What if I feel sick?**

1. If you feel sick and on the verge of puking, please grab the trash can & go in the hall or head to the restroom ASAP.

**VERY IMPORTANT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! What if there is a sub for the class?**

1. I take behavior when I am gone *very seriously*. Do NOT misbehave for a sub—plain and simple. I expect your behavior to be superior and whatever the assignment is that I leave for you to be done.

**Questions:** Perhaps you are having a problem with your homework or need further explanations but school is over for the day and the assignment is due tomorrow—what do you do? You may call me and get the answers you need at 859-4787. I am here to help but not to shoot the breeze.

Sign up on [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) for reminders—my twitter name is ACHSNolan.

I will also be posting upcoming assignments on my web page at: <http://www.anderson.k12.ky.us/RichNolan.aspx>. You can use the website as another way to keep up to date on what is going on in class.

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(Student's Signature)

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(Parent/Guardian's Signature)

**RETURN THIS SIGNED FOR A GRADE!**

"The only thing that separates successful people from the ones who aren't is the willingness to work very, very hard."  
--Helen Gurley Brown

"Education is an important element in the struggle for human rights. It is the means to help our children and thereby increase self-respect. Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."  
--Malcolm X