



Athens High School

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June 1, 2018

Dear Families,

Welcome to Athens High School! My name is Sue Syme, and I will be teaching the Advanced Placement Human Geography class during the 2018-2019 school year.

The Human Geography class allows students to potentially earn college credit while in high school by taking the Advanced Placement test in May. The following website may provide you with additional information:
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>.

Please be aware that this is a class that is taught at the collegiate level and is meant to be challenging. Students will need to be self-motivated and hard working. There will be a significant amount of reading and other required assignments to be completed outside of the regular school day.

As is the case with many AP classes, summer assignments are required. I have attached a list of **two** assignments which are due on Thursday August 30, 2018. The purpose of the summer work is to provide students the opportunity to learn background information necessary for successful understanding of course curriculum. Please note that the students should be working on these assignments throughout the summer, not just during the last week of vacation.

Should you have questions regarding the assignments or the rigor of the course, please don't hesitate to contact me or your son/daughter's high school counselor (counseling office 248-823-2962). We want to make certain that all are prepared and understand the nature of the course.

If you have any questions before that, please feel free to email me at ssyme@troy.k12.mi.us.

Best wishes for a relaxing summer!

Sue Syme

Assignment #1: Map Skills

This is a human, not physical geography class. In other words, we study how human society interacts with the physical world. But it is imperative that students know the basics of physical and political geography. During the first semester, map quizzes (of countries, by continent) will occur biweekly. The purpose of this assignment is for students to become more familiar with world geography. There are numerous blank world maps available online. **Use one blank map for Part A, and as many blank maps as you feel necessary to complete Part B.**

PART A:

General Features

- 4 Oceans
- 7 continents
- Equator
- Tropic of Cancer
- Tropic of Capricorn

Major Mountain Ranges

- Himalayas
- Rockies
- Andes
- Alps
- Caucasus
- Urals
- Appalachian

Major Rivers

- Rhine
- Amazon
- Yangtze
- Mississippi
- Ganges
- Nile
- Congo

Major Deserts

- Sahara
- Great Sandy Desert
Australia
- Gobi
- Siberia

Major Climate Regions- (which parts of the world fit each category)

- Tropical
- Dry
- Mild
- Continental
- Polar

Major Bodies of Water

- Great Lakes
- Mediterranean Sea
- Black Sea
- Caspian Sea
- Red Sea
- Arabian Sea
- South China Sea
- Caribbean Sea
- Aral Sea

Chokepoints (Straits and Channels)

- Strait of Gibraltar
- Panama Canal
- Suez Canal
- English Channel
- Bosphorus & Dardanelles
- Strait of Hormuz

Major World Cities

- New York City
- London
- Tokyo
- Paris
- Cairo
- Sydney
- Sao Paulo
- Johannesburg
- Moscow
- Hong Kong

Major World Cities (cont.)

- Chicago
- Beijing
- Bombay (Mumbai)
- Mexico City
- Tehran
- Washington D.C.
- Lagos
- Calcutta
- Toronto
- Singapore

PART B

Country identification – you need to be able to identify where these countries are on a map.

Africa

- South Africa
- Madagascar
- Sudan
- Niger
- Algeria
- Nigeria
- Somalia
- Morocco
- Libya
- Egypt
- Kenya
- Chad
- Mali
- Congo/Zaire
- Rwanda
- Botswana
- Ethiopia
- Zimbabwe

North America & South America

- United States
- Argentina
- Guatemala
- Bolivia
- Cuba
- Brazil
- Haiti
- Chile
- Honduras
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Bahamas
- Peru
- Panama
- Venezuela
- Nicaragua
- El Salvador
- Canada

Asia

- Vietnam
- Thailand
- Japan
- India
- Singapore
- Burma
- Mongolia
- China
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- South Korea
- Philippines

Other

- Australia
- New Zealand

Europe

- Ireland
- Russia
- Sweden
- Greece
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Czech Republic
- Norway
- Spain
- Croatia
- Yugoslavia (historic boundary)
- Germany
- France
- United Kingdom
- Italy
- Poland
- Finland
- Bosnia

Southwest Asia

- Kuwait
- Syria
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Saudi Arabia
- Israel
- Iran
- Jordan
- Turkey
- Afghanistan

- Mexico

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Assignment #2 – Modern World History

The following topics are generally not covered in middle school classes, yet background knowledge is necessary for understanding the geographic content in this course. Your goal is to build a working knowledge of these important events. Therefore, please research these topics until you feel comfortable with it and **write (in your own words, not cut and pasted) a 1-2 paragraph summary of each event.**

1. Iran hostage crisis
2. Saddam Hussein and the Gulf War
3. Crisis in Darfur
4. South African Apartheid
5. Chernobyl nuclear accident
6. India/Pakistan struggle for Kashmir
7. Palestinian/Israeli conflict
8. Fidel Castro- Communism in Cuba
9. Japan Fukushima meltdown
10. 9/11
11. Formation of the European Union
12. Falkland Island debate
13. Ebola outbreak in Africa
14. OPEC crisis
15. Conflict in Northern Ireland 1960-1998
16. Arab Spring
17. Russia & Crimea dispute
18. North Korea (Kim Jong Il, Kim Jung Un)
19. Blood diamonds
20. Breakup of Yugoslavia