

Welcome to AP Human Geography 2020-2021!

I am super excited to have you in this class and look forward to an awesome year! For those of you taking an AP (Advanced Placement) class for the first time, you may be wondering:

- **Who is my Teacher?** My name is Ms. Spruill and I am entering my eighth year as a GCS teacher. This is the start of my third year teaching American History and AP Human Geography at Western. I am the proud mother of a rising Senior and loving human to a cat named Cat and a turtle named Turtle. When I am not doing school related stuff, I can be found in my garden, tending to my aquarium, listening to an audiobook, or playing Pokémon Go!
- **What is an AP class?** An AP class is taught as a college-level course, but it is taken in high school. An AP class differs from an Honors class because the textbook and materials are written at a college-level and the GPA weight for an AP class is greater. An AP class also gives students the opportunity to earn college credit if they achieve a qualifying score on the AP exam given each May.
- **What is AP Human Geography?** APHG is a year-long course that introduces students to the systematic study of human behavior around the world. The course is taught thematically rather than chronologically. Students are taught to identify and explain important concepts, patterns, and practices that appear around the world. Ultimately, **APHG is designed to broaden students' understanding of human activity globally while strengthen their critical thinking skills.**
 - By studying different cultural phenomenon such as language, religion, government, and economic systems, students will learn to make connections between different cultural groups and how they interact with one another.
 - By examining maps and other geographical tools, students will better understand correlations between the physical and human world and the interactions that have shaped human activity on Earth.
- **What is expected of me as an APHG Student?** Prepare yourself for map tests (both physical features and political boundaries), nightly reading, reading and vocabulary guides, regular quizzes, unit and quarterly assessments, projects, and presentations. You also need to be mature and able to handle mature topics - we will be discussing many fascinating but sometimes troubling topics, like ethnic cleansing and genocide.

Yes, course expectations are high, but rest assured, I will help you transition to high school Advanced Placement classes. You will be challenged, but you will also be supported. AP classes are designed to give you a solid base to strengthen your academic career at Western and beyond. Together we can have a great year learning from each other while we explore patterns of human culture and interactions around the world.

I so look forward to having you in class. Let's go APHG Hornets!

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