Montclair High School
Course Syllabus

Department: Social Studies/ The Center for Social Justice
Course: Human Geography
Level: Advanced Placement (AP)
Credits: 5

Course Description:
AP Human Geography, in the Center for Social Justice, is unique to Montclair High School. This course is structured to align with the Center for Social Justice English 12 course, to ensure readings and content in students’ English Language Arts class correlate with content in Social Studies, providing students with an interdisciplinary foundation for social justice and global issues.

AP Human Geography in the Center for Social Justice, presents students with the curricular equivalent of an introductory college-level course in human geography or cultural geography, and introduces contemporary world issues through the perspective of social justice. Content is presented thematically rather than regionally and is organized around the discipline’s main subfields: economic geography, cultural geography, political geography, and urban geography. The approach is spatial and problem oriented. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today, citizen participation, and social justice activism. Historical information serves to enrich analysis of the impacts of phenomena such as globalization, development, and human–environment relationships on places, regions, cultural landscapes, and patterns of interaction.

Standards:
• CCSS.ELA-Literacy: RH.11-12.1-10 and WHST.11-12.1-10

Anchor Text(s):

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<th>Text Title</th>
<th>Publisher/Author</th>
<th>Year/Edition</th>
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Supplementary Materials:
Individual marking period “readers” will be distributed at the beginning of each unit of study. They have been compiled by R. Novalis and are available through her.

Units of Study:

Proficiencies:
By the end of this course, students will:
• Interpret maps and analyze geospatial data
• Understand and explain implications of associations and networks among phenomena in places
• Recognize and interpret the relationships among patterns and processes at different scales of analysis
• Define regions and evaluate regionalization process
• Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places
• Understand the issues facing the contemporary world and the history behind those issues.
• Distinguish political opinion and “media spin” from fact.
• Identify the political leaders from around the world, but also important players in American politics.
• Gain a better understanding of geography and how location can affect a person’s lifestyle and belief system.
• Debate one another on issues facing our community, country or world.
• Recognize that knowledge from every angle will only enhance credibility when discussing major issues with others.

Evaluation & Assessment:
• 40% Classwork (activities, notes/workheets done in class)
• 30% Projects/At-home assessments
• 20% Tests/Quizzes
• 10% Homework