

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose this course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the surface of the Earth. Students will consider spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They will also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research. Emphasis is placed on the application of geographic **concepts** and **models**. In addition, students will develop a **vocabulary** necessary for understanding the discipline. Beyond the textbook and class activities, case studies are drawn from previous Social Studies courses as well as readings and current events.

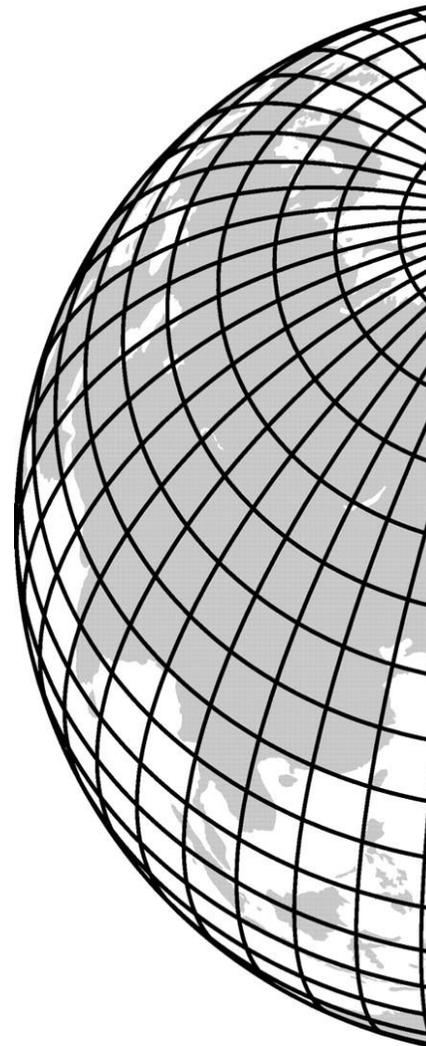
This yearlong elective course is designed to match the experience of an introductory one-semester college human geography course. Successful completion of this course requires daily attendance and active class participation. Likewise, successful students will devote considerable time to studying outside of class.

KEY CONCEPTS

- UNIT I *Geography: Its Nature & Perspectives* ①
- What is geography? CONCEPTUAL
 - What purpose does it serve? APPLIED
 - How do geographers gather and interpret data?
- UNIT II *Population & Migration* ② ③
- Where are populations distributed?
 - What accounts for the current distribution of populations?
 - Are current population levels sustainable?
- UNIT III *Cultural Patterns & Processes* ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦
- Where do cultures originate?
 - To where do they diffuse and cluster?
 - What are the costs and benefits of the globalization of culture?
- UNIT IV *Political Organization of Space* ⑧
- What forces shaped the modern state?
 - How do states interact on a regional and global scale?
 - When are political boundaries problematic?
- UNIT V *Food Production & Rural Land Use* ⑩ ⑭
- How is agriculture practiced in different places?
 - What is the interrelationship between rural and urban land use?
 - How does globalization affect rural land use practices?
- UNIT VI *Development Geography & Industrialization* ⑨ ⑪
- How is location important to economic development?
 - Why are location factors changing?
 - What data best indicate uneven levels of development?
 - What are the appropriate paths to sustainable development?
- UNIT VII *Cities & Urban Land Use* ⑫ ⑬
- What factors influence the location of services?
 - What defines the regional and global significance of cities?
 - What infrastructure is necessary for urban areas to function?
 - How do urban landscape evolve over space and time?

S1
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S2
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NECESSARY MATERIALS

- a notebook devoted solely to Human Geography
- a binder to store and organize relevant materials
- pencils and pens
- an AP Human Geography test prep book or study guide *this is highly recommended yet not provided*
- **Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. 10th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, 2011.** *this text is provided by the school*
refer to course units for the corresponding chapters in Rubenstein e.g., Unit V 10 14

TYPICAL ASSESSMENTS

- regular quizzes on readings, vocabulary, maps, lectures, etc.
- analysis of graphs and geospatial data
- individual and group projects *some of which may require local travel outside of school*
- participation in discussions
- writing practice
- unit exams *For the first day of each unit exam, students will complete two free response questions (FRQs) during the 50-minute class period. The second day will consist of a fifty-question multiple choice (MCQ) section. These exams weigh heavily on your semester grade. Each is designed to simulate the AP Human Geography exam, which will be administered at noon on Tuesday, **May 14th**.*

CLASSWORK & HOMEWORK POLICY

Unless otherwise instructed, all in-class work will be due at the end of the period. Likewise, homework is to be completed by the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due. Late assignments will not be accepted for credit. When absent, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain any notes, materials, and/or assignments from that class period.

GRADING

Please check Power School as grades are regularly updated.

Any challenge to a grade must be presented in writing. Be sure to staple the assignment or assessment in question to the written note. Avoid plagiarism. Plagiarized assignments or assessments will earn zero credit.

For all other grades, the following scale applies...

A	100% through 92%
B	91% through 84%
C	83% through 76%
D	75% through 70%
F	69% and below

LEARNING GOALS

- interpret maps and analyze geospatial data
- understand the perceptual aspects of space
- recognize and interpret the relationships among patterns and processes at different scales
- define regions and understand the processes by which regions develop
- describe and analyze the changing interconnection among places
- acquire a spatial perspective to better understand our cultural landscape as well as current events
- **develop a deep and lasting appreciation of geography** *I'm not kidding!*