

Advanced Placement Human Geography Syllabus

INTRODUCTION:

The Advanced Placement course in geography gives high-ability students the opportunity to earn college credit in geography while still in high school. More importantly, the content of an AP Geography course helps students develop critical thinking skills through the understanding, application and analysis of the fundamental concepts of geography. Through AP Geography, students are introduced to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to analyze human social organization and its environmental consequences. Students will meet the five college-level goals as determined by the National Geographic Standards. They also learn the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. In preparation for the AP Geography examination, this course will be divided into eight sections: nature & perspectives, population, culture, politics, agriculture, urbanization, industrialization, and environmental/social issues. There will be approximately three to four tests per trimester, as well as a trimester exam. Grades are accrued on a point basis through test scores, quizzes, projects, and class participation. All students enrolled in AP Human Geography will take a benchmark examination at the beginning of the year to illustrate how much they don't know about human geography - and how much they will learn throughout the year.

Goals

- Use and think about maps and spatial data.
- Understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places.
- Recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and practices.
- Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process.
- Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places.

The AP Exam

The test is 2 hours and 15 minutes long. It has a 60-minute multiple-choice section and a 75 minute free response written section. There are 3 discussion questions that a student will be asked to answer during that 75-minute time frame. Each section accounts for half of the student's exam grade. More information about the AP Exam can be found at www.apcentral.collegeboard.com.

Grading

Tests - 35%
Free Response – 20%
Projects – 15%
Quizzes – 15%
Homework – 15%

Text

Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture, 10th edition (2012), by H.J. de Blij, Erin H. Foberg, and Alexander B. Murphy.