

Advanced Placement Human Geography 1st Semester Syllabus

School: Parkview High School
Course Name: AP Human Geography
Department: Social Studies
Grade Level: 9th
Teacher: Mrs. Molly McAuliffe

What is Human Geography? Quite simply, it is the study of people from a spatial and ecological perspective. People are central to geography in that their activities help shape Earth's surface largely through their interaction with the physical environment (cultural landscape!). Human settlements and structures are part of that tapestry of interaction. It is in that setting that humans either compete for control of space and resources or work out systems of social, economic and political cooperation.

Course Description: First and foremost, AP Human Geography is a *college-level program* that goes well beyond the memorization of facts and the simple recall of details. Students are expected to use thinking skills that require comprehension, application, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis. They must not only master the basic information in the course Human Geography, but also understand the concepts, trends and relations that give that information meaning. In order to be successful in this course, you must take responsibility for the class and for your own learning!

There are seven topics that provide the course framework. They are: Human Geography—Its Nature and Perspectives, Population, Cultural Patterns and Processes, Political Organization of Space, Agriculture and Rural Land Use, Industrialization and Economic Development, and Cities and Urban Land Use. I also include a unit on the Environment at the end of the course.

Objectives: Because AP Human Geography is a college-level course, it is directed at meeting these six essential elements that characterize the objectives of the introductory college course in human geography. According to the National Council for Geographic Education, the *Geographically Informed Person* knows and understands:

- The World in Spatial Terms
- Places and Regions
- Physical Systems
- Human Systems
- Environment and Society
- The Uses of Geography

Academic Responsibility: Students are expected to abide by ethical standards, including Parkview's *Honor Code* and the *Student Discipline Handbook* in preparing and presenting material. Such standards are founded on the basic concepts of honesty and integrity. Any time I collect something for a grade, it is understood to be *your own work* and if it is found to be otherwise, a zero will be given and administrators will be notified.

Assessments & Grading: I will be using the following percentages for this class:

- Class and Homework Assignments: 15%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Tests: 50%
- County Final Exam: 20%
- TOTAL: 100%

Class and Homework Assignments will include debates, discussions, webquests, and projects. Quizzes will include vocabulary quizzes and case/field studies. Tests include both essay and multiple choice sections and one end-of-the-year project. The County Final Exam will consist of both a performance final (8%) and a multiple choice final (12%). Although periodically extra credit opportunities will arise, no extra credit assignments or projects will be given for extra credit.

Textbook & Notebook: The following materials will be required for this course—

- de Blij, H. J., Alexander B. Murphy, & Erin H. Fouberg. *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture. Eighth Edition.* John Wiley & Sons, Inc.: Hoboken, New Jersey, 2007.

Supplementary Texts and Materials:

- Knox, Paul L. and Sallie A. Marston. *Places and Regions in Global Context, Human Geography, Second Edition.* Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 2003.
- Kuby, Michael, John Harner, and Patricia Gober. *Human Geography in Action. Fourth Edition.* John Wiley & Sons, Inc.: Hoboken, New Jersey, 2007.
- Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography. Ninth Edition.* Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 2008.

Students will need a 3-ring binder, loose-leaf notebook paper, pencils, blue or black ink pens, colored pencils/markers, note cards, and 6 notebook dividers (labeled: Intro to Geography, Population, Language, Religion, Identity, and Political Geography). This notebook should be used *only* for this class.

Tardies, Absences, & Late Work: Students are expected to arrive on time and get seated on their own each day. This class will follow Parkview's S.T.A.M.P. policy for tardies.

If a student has an excused absence, he/she will be allowed to make up any missed work within 5 school days. It is the student's responsibility to set up a test make-up appointment. If it is a long-standing assignment, it is due the day the student returns to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for missed assignments either before or after class. Not during class time!

If the absence is unexcused, unless prearranged, any missed assignments will be counted as a zero.

If a student checks in or out of school on a day when a long-standing assignment is due, that student is expected to turn in the work *on that day* even if he/she misses my class.

If a student forgets an assignment, I will accept it the next day only for a late-grade, which is a 10% penalty. If it is a long-standing assignment, no late work will be taken. Beyond that, I do not accept late work! Please be responsible!

****AP-Only Policy**** Once per semester, a student may postpone taking a unit test (either the essay *or* multiple choice portion) if he/she feels unprepared. The student will then have 2 days to make up the test. If a student never uses this policy, he/she will receive bonus points at the end of the semester.

One-On-One Time: I will make myself available as much as possible for study sessions, questions, and individual instruction. Mornings and some afternoons are available for this time. Please let me know if you need to come in and I will be there! Should you need special services of any kind, let me know. If you or your parents wish to contact me, please feel free to email me at any time.

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mollymustard@hotmail.com (home)

Pacing Guide: On the following page you will find a tentative outline of what topics we will cover this semester and the corresponding chapters in the text. It is the student's responsibility to read the information in the chapters *before* we cover the material in class. The lectures and activities we do in class will *not* come from your textbook. You must keep up with your textbook readings if you hope to achieve college credit for this course.

I am looking forward to an interactive and productive semester with each of you!

DATES	UNIT	READING
Aug. 13 (Mon.)— Aug. 31 (Fri.)	Geography: Its Nature & Perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography as a field of inquiry • Evolution of key geographical concepts and models associated with notable geographers • Key concepts underlying the geographical perspective: location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization • Key geographical skills • New geographic technologies, such as GIS and GPS • Sources of geographical ideas and data: the field, census data, etc. 	Chapter 1
Sept. 3	Labor Day HOLIDAY	
Sept. 4 (Tues.)— Sept. 21 (Fri.)	Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical analysis of population • Population distribution and composition • Population growth and decline over time and space • Population movement 	Chapters 2 & 3
Sept. 21	End of 1 st SIX WEEKS	
Sept. 24 (Mon.)— Oct. 10 (Wed.)	Cultural Patterns and Processes: Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of culture • Cultural differences • Environmental impact of cultural attitudes and practices • Cultural landscapes and cultural identity 	Chapter 6
Oct. 11 (Thurs.)— Oct. 31 (Wed.)	Cultural Patterns and Processes: Religion	Chapter 7
Oct. 15	Teacher WORK DAY	
Nov. 1 (Thurs.)— Nov. 20 (Tues.)	Cultural Patterns and Processes: Cultural Identity	Chapters 4 & 5
Nov. 2	End of 2 nd SIX WEEKS	
Nov. 21-23	Thanksgiving HOLIDAY	Nov. 22-24
Nov. 26 (Mon.)— Dec. 14 (Fri.)	Political Organization of Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial dimensions of politics • Evolution of the contemporary political pattern • Challenges to inherited political-territorial arrangements 	Chapter 8
Dec. 17	Final Exam REVIEW	
Dec. 18-20	FINAL EXAMS End of 1 st SEMESTER	See you Jan. 3 rd !!