

Jackson County High School

AP Human Geography Syllabus

Instructor: Crystal Miller

Crystal.miller2@jackson.kyschools.us

Planning: 6th Period, 2:10-2:45

Course Outline

AP Human Geography is a year-long course designed to fulfill the curriculum expectations of a one-semester university human geography course. The course focuses on the processes and cause and effect relationships of human populations. Emphasis throughout this course is on the spatial distribution, differences in scale and cultural determinants influenced by global interaction and integration. Major themes that transcend the course of study at multiple levels of scale include globalization, diffusion, assimilation, acculturation, integration, and interaction. The course provides a systematic study of human geography in a prescribed set of topics:

- Nature and Perspectives on Geography
- Population
- Cultural Patterns and Process
- Political Organization of Space
- Agricultural and Rural Land Use
- Industrialization and Economic Development
- Cities and Urban Land Use

Course Objectives

- The student will develop a geographic perspective to better understand the intricate relationship between peoples and events at varying degrees of scale
- The student will use interpretive abilities to develop spatial concepts at different scales
- The student will use spatial concepts, geographic terminology and landscape analysis to examine human organization of space at multiple levels of scale.
- The student will use and interpret maps, data sets, and geographic models from different sources to evaluate the human landscape. This includes sources from GIS, aerial photographs, and satellite images and data sets from NGO's and Government agencies.

Course Materials

Ipad

Rubenstein, James M. 11th edition, *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, Upper Saddle River, NJ; Pearson Education, Inc, 2005.

Video Case Studies:

Power of Place: Geography for the 21st Century by Cambridge Studios

Other Course Materials:

Additional case studies, films, articles and websites are incorporated in the units. In order to apply the concepts and illustrate the connectivity of people and places continual incorporation of outside materials is essential. Some of those sources include: *The Economist*, *Foreign Policy*, *New York Times*, *Population Reference Bureau*, *GeoTimes*, *Census Department*, *Annual Editions: Urban Society, Development, Geography, Global Issues, World Politics, A Global World, A Place in the World, A Shrinking World* among others.

Course Organization

Students meet each day in 55 minute periods for two semesters. The Course is conducted over 4 nine week periods, incorporating each unit requested by the AP audit. Students should expect to participate in the following types of activities during class.

1. **Introduction to New Material:** students will be introduced to various AP Human Geography concepts, models, and vocabulary through a variety of methods, including but not limited to lecture, discovery activities, and reading assignments.
2. **Case Studies:** students will be expected to make connections between class concepts and their real-world applications. This will be done in a number of ways, including the use of the "Power of Place" and other video series, frequent articles presented from different sources at different scales, and other in-depth online research. I have listed a series of "Major Case Studies" for each unit. As application is present in each lesson, this list should not be construed as a complete list of examples presented.
3. **Mapping Activities:** Students will be required to map various phenomenon discovered during class onto a variety of thematic maps (Chloropleth, Dot, Cartograms) at a variety of scales.
4. **Practice and Review:** Students will summarize, synthesize, and apply various class concepts. Practice will focus on tying together class concepts from a variety of units in order to create a better understanding of the course.
5. **Free Response Practice:** Students will show mastery of class concepts through writing questions that mirror those they will see during the AP test.

6. Socratic Seminars: Students will conduct significant research in order to participate in student-led discussions about issues facing modern geographers.

7. Study Guides: Students will be required to create comprehensive study guides based on required course readings to prepare themselves for the AP exam. Rigor will be gradually released, starting with teacher-generated questions and ending with fully student-driven work.

Student Evaluation

Students will be awarded grades as follows:

1. Unit Tests: 60%

2. Weekly Quizzes, Writing Assignments, Practice Questions, Projects and Participation: 40%

Geography Course Description

Geography-Its Nature and Perspectives (4 weeks)

II. Population (6 weeks)

III. Cultural Patterns and Processes (5 weeks)

IV. Political Geography (3 Weeks)

V. Agriculture and Rural Land Use (4 weeks)

VI. Industrialization and Economic Development (4 weeks)

VII. Urban Land Use (4 weeks)

VIII. Review and Link Concepts (4 weeks)