

**Jefferson County High School
Course Syllabus**

A. Course: AP Human Geography

B. Department: Social Studies

C. Course Description This is a year-long intensive study intended to introduce students to the systematic study of the patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to analyze human social and economic organization and their environmental consequences. They learn about and use the methods and tools used by geographers in their science and practice. Students are required to take the AP Human Geography Exam.

D. Grade Term Full Year, (Flex schedule with Honors Biology - each class meeting alternating days)

E. Grading Scale

<u>Range</u>	<u>Honors/ Regular</u>	<u>College-Level</u>	<u>A.P.</u>
93-100 A	4.0	4.5	5.0
85-92 B	3.0	3.5	4.0
75-84 C	2.0	2.5	3.0
70-74 D	1.0	1.5	2.0

F. Term Dates

- a. 1st 9 Weeks August 5, 2016 – October 7, 2016
- b. 2nd 9 Weeks October 8, 2016 – December 16, 2016
- c. 3rd 9 Weeks January 5, 2017 – March 15, 2017
- d. 4th 9 Weeks March 16, 2017 – May 25, 2017

G. Textbook

The Cultural Landscape, An Introduction to Human Geography

H. Other Required Reading

Various newspaper and magazine articles as assigned

I. Other Resources

- a. Odysseyware
- b. AP Central Collegeboard for Parents and Students
- c. Various videos from National Geographic, etc.

J. Major Assignments

- a. Important Geographers: Each student will be expected to research and present to the class two or more geographers who made significant contributions to the field.
- b. Maps: Each student will be expected to create a “mental map” of their neighborhood.
- c. Population Pyramids: Each student will create and present to the class a population pyramid of a country of their choice.
- d. Connections: Each student will be expected on a semester basis to collect two articles from a newspaper or magazine, summarize the articles and apply key spatial concepts of human geography to analyze the significance of each event. These also will be shared with the class.
- e. Writing Assignments: Each student will be expected to write several short essays on various human geography subjects throughout the term. Details for each assignment will be provided in advance. Some of these assignments will be done out-of-class, while some will be done in class.
- f. Other: Each student can expect additional assignments as deemed appropriate.

K. Procedures for Parental Access to Instructional Materials

- a. Aspen Parent Portal
- b. Email Instructor: mfinchum@jcboe.net
- c. Parent Teacher Conference
 - a. There are two designated conference dates during the school year. Parents who would like to request additional meetings may make an appointments for a conference during planning time or after school by emailing the instructor or by calling the school office.

L. Field Trips

Any scheduled field trip will have a definite educational purpose and will reflect careful planning. Signed permission forms will be obtained when an off campus trip is planned.

M. Standards & Objectives: AP Human Geography

- ▶I can read sophisticated texts and academic writings.
- ▶I can write well-constructed essays and research reports.
- ▶I can think critically by synthesizing a variety of perspectives and information from various sources.
- ▶I can discuss controversial issues with maturity and openness.
- ▶I can analyze forms of geospatial data.
- ▶I can present field work and/or research using both visual and oral formats.
- ▶I can work collaboratively with fellow students to analyze real-world issues.
- ▶I can ask geographic questions.
- ▶I can acquire geographic information.

- ▶I can organize geographic information.
- ▶I can analyze geographic information.
- ▶I can answer geographic information.
- ▶I can acquire geographic information.

