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## AP Human Geography

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Greetings Students and Parents!

I am excited that you are going to embark on the amazing journey that we call AP Human Geography. This letter contains important information about the course as well as the first reading assignment, so please review it carefully!

Throughout the upcoming year, students will be challenged to look at the world from different viewpoints and formulate opinions based upon geographic standards of inquiry. This will include systematic studies of population, culture, language, religion, politics, agriculture, industrialization, and urbanization. Students will find this course to be both rewarding and challenging. Remember, I am here to help guide students *and* parents through this demanding process. If at any time you have questions, problems, concerns, or are feeling overwhelmed PLEASE contact me immediately. I cannot help you if I do not know that you are struggling.

This course places a heavy emphasis on reading. Consequently, students can expect to be engaged with reading assignments EVERY night. Reading assignments will include textbooks, novels, and articles from newspapers and academic journals. Students will read four full-length novels/non-fiction titles over the course of the year. All required novels are described in detail on the next page. Digital or electronic versions are acceptable when accessible from MJHS.

I look forward to a fun and exciting year. If you have any questions or concerns about the course, please do not hesitate to contact me at [boone.dixon@maryville-schools.org](mailto:boone.dixon@maryville-schools.org).

Sincerely,

*W. Boone Dixon*

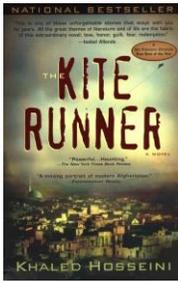
AP Human Geography Instructor  
Maryville Junior High School



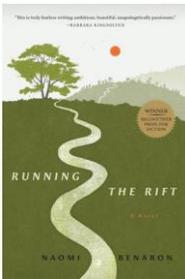
## AP Human Geography



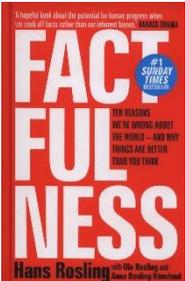
### 2020-2021 Reading Requirements



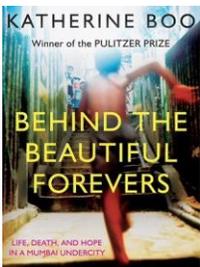
***The Kite Runner*** by Khaled Hosseini – This book discusses life in Afghanistan beginning in the early 1970s, during the Soviet Invasion in 1979, and paints a vivid picture of life under the Taliban regime during the 1990s. ***Students must have it read by the first day of class.*** We will be spending a majority of time during the first week discussing the book and how it relates to Human Geography. *Please note this book contains descriptions of graphic violence and scenes some may find offensive – in particular a scene that involves a reference to rape. If this is too offensive, please contact Mr. Dixon immediately – DO NOT wait until the end of the summer – and an alternative reading assignment will be given. There will be an exam given over the book during the first week of class.*



***Running the Rift*** by Naomi Benaron – This historical fiction novel follows an aspiring Olympic runner trying to survive during the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. Students will be expected to purchase this book and have a copy available to use during class discussions. Students are not required to read it over the summer; instead reading assignments will be given over the course of the school year. Questions from this book will be incorporated into exams and essay topics.



***Factfulness*** by Hans Rosling – When asked simple questions about global trends—what percentage of the world’s population live in poverty; why the world’s population is increasing; how many girls finish school—we systematically get the answers wrong. Factfulness offers a radical new explanation of why this happens. It reveals the ten instincts that distort our perspective—from our tendency to divide the world into two camps (usually some version of *us* and *them*) to the way we consume media (where fear rules) to how we perceive progress (believing that most things are getting worse). It turns out that the world, for all its imperfections, is in a much better state than we might think. That doesn’t mean there aren’t real concerns. But when we worry about everything all the time instead of embracing a worldview based on facts, we can lose our ability to focus on the things that threaten us most. Students are not required to read this book over the summer; instead reading assignments will be given over the course of the school year. Questions from this book will be incorporated into exams and essay topics.



***Behind the Beautiful Forevers*** by Katherine Boo – This award-winning novel details life in the slums of Mumbai, India. Students will be expected to purchase this book and have a copy available to use during class discussions. Class discussions of this book will not begin until after Spring break. Students are not required to read it over the summer; instead reading assignments will be given over the course of the class. Questions from this book will be incorporated into exams and essay topics.