

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY SYLLABUS

AP Human Geography QSI Virtual School

Semester/Term: 2022/23

Meeting Days/Time/Location: Class platform is available 24/7 for students.

<https://learn.qvs.qsi.org>

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jennifer Sedmak

Email: jennifer-sedmak@qvs.qsi.org

Time Zone: Benin – GMT+1

Skype: [gisedmak@hotmail.com](https://www.hotmail.com)

Preferred Method of Communication: Email or Teams

Course Description

The Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012). This course is presented thematically. Students will work collaboratively to investigate and analyze the patterns and processes of economic, cultural, political, and urban geography that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface.

This course is structured around three big ideas as articulated in the AP Human Geography Course and Exam Description (CED) provided by the College Board. Below are the big ideas of the course and a brief description of each which has been taken directly from page 15 of the CED.

- **BIG IDEA 1: PATTERNS AND SPATIAL ORGANIZATION (PSO)** Spatial patterns and organization of human society are arranged according to political, historical, cultural, and economic factors.
- **BIG IDEA 2: IMPACTS AND INTERACTIONS (IMP)** Complex relationships of cause and effect exist among people, their environments, and historical and contemporary actions.
- **BIG IDEA 3: SPATIAL PROCESS AND SOCIETAL CHANGE (SPS)** A spatial perspective allows for a focus on the ways phenomena are related to one another in particular places, which in turn allows for the examination of human organization and its environmental consequences.

AP Human Geography is divided into 7 essential units and 7 selective units. The normal pace for the course leads to mastery of 10 units in one school year. While all essential units must be completed before the AP exam, the instructor chooses which selective units to complete the required number from those available.

Students typically engage in this course in Secondary II school year. AP Human Geography is designed to use five class periods per week or the equivalent. A class period is a minimum of 45 minutes.

The normal pace and expectation for the course leads to mastery of 10 units in one school year.

Course Credit Equivalency: 1 Carnegie credit

Approximate length of the course – 33 weeks

Course Prerequisites

12/13 Literature and Writing

Required Materials

Open Mindset

Willingness to communicate weekly

Willingness to learn independently

Computer with Word capabilities

The course is self-contained; however, if the student feels a resource textbook is needed, please reach out and the following will be provided: *Human Geography* (Fouberg, 2012)

Technology Information and Requirements

Computer with internet access and Microsoft word

Microphone

Course Grading

QVS is a mastery learning school where students must demonstrate that they meet certain criteria (“The Student Will”, or TSWs) before closing a unit and receiving credit for it. The assignments for each unit are designed to give students a chance to meet the TSW criteria for either B Level Mastery or A Level Mastery (see below).

Assignments may be graded as follows:

Attempted /NOT Completed - the student has attempted the assignment but it is not done correctly or completely to mastery standards.

Completed – the assignment in question is completed to mastery standards for the TSW being evaluated.

Mastery “B” - the student has met the TSW criteria covered by the assignment for Mastery. This is sometimes also referred to as “B Level Mastery”.

Above Mastery “A” - the student has exceeded the TSW criteria covered by the assignment for Mastery and meets the criteria for Above Mastery. This is sometimes referred to as “A Level

Mastery” and is awarded for work that showcases a consistently sophisticated, nuanced and thorough understanding and application of the TSW criteria being evaluated.

Units may be graded as follows:

Mastery “B” - the student has met all of the required criteria for B Level Mastery as described in the unit document.

Above Mastery “A”- the student has met all of the required criteria for A Level Mastery described in the unit document.

Deficient “D”- a “D” may be assigned to the unit if the student has fallen behind (typically 10 or more days) due to lack of effort OR if the student has plagiarized material. In the event of late work, the instructor will send a reminder and if the work is still not submitted a D contract may be issued where the student will list missing work with a submission date. If the missing work is not submitted in accordance with the schedule, a D will be entered into the QVS gradebook until the work is done. In the case of plagiarism, a D will be automatically entered until the matter has been resolved. See the last page of this syllabus for more information on the plagiarism policy.

It is important to note that a “D” is not in itself a grade or a punitive measure but rather an indication that the student is not performing as required.

On Hold “H” – for whatever reason, the student is unable to complete a unit and it is put on hold until such a time as work can resume.

Teacher feedback and revision of work:

- The instructor will endeavor to return your assignments within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays.
- If a student does not receive feedback within 48 hours, the student should contact the instructor.
- The student will endeavor to revise any assignment that requires it within 48 hours.

Progression through course units:

- Students must close a unit with at least a B before beginning the next. The teacher will work closely with students to ensure they attain B level mastery on a unit, regardless of the time it takes.
- The instructor may allow students to ‘upgrade’ their results on an assignment or on a unit from B to A level mastery outside of the unit timeframe during a pre-approved agreed upon time between the instructor and student.
- Students may only complete two (2) units in the month of June. That is to say that if a student has fallen behind during the school year it is not possible to close more than two units between June 1st and the last day of school (typically, mid-June).

Essential and Selective Units

Clicking on each of these links will take you to a document outlining what will be done for each unit.

[E01: Thinking Geographically](#)

[E02: Population and Migration Patterns and Processes](#)

[E03: Cultural Patterns and Processes](#)

[E04: Political Patterns and Processes](#)

[E05: Agricultural and Rural Land Use patterns and Processes](#)

[E06: Cities and Urban Land Use Patterns and Processes](#)

[E07: Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes](#)

[S01: Test Preparation](#)

[S03: Skills and Themes Portfolio](#)

[S07: Geography through Film](#)

Tentative Course Schedule

Essential Unit 1 – Thinking Geographically: 4 weeks

Essential Unit 2 – Population and Migration Patterns and Processes: 4 weeks

Essential Unit 3 – Cultural Patterns and Processes: 4 weeks

Essential Unit 4 – Political Patterns and Processes: 4 weeks

Essential Unit 5 – Agricultural and Rural Land Use Patterns and Processes: 4 weeks

Essential Unit 6 – Cities and Urban Land Use Patterns and Processes: 4 weeks

Essential Unit 7 – Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes: 4 weeks

Selective Unit 1 – Test Preparation: Open all year running concurrently with E01-E07

Selective Unit 3 – Skills and Themes Portfolio: Open all year running concurrently with E01-E07

Selective Unit 7-Geography through Film: Open all year running concurrently with E01-E07

Attendance Policy

Five periods per week, (equivalent of 225 minutes per week) plus time for homework as necessary. Together should be no more than 10 hours per week.

Students are expected to submit work daily, when assignments are submitted in bulk feedback time increases (1 assignment graded per day).

Classroom Behavior Expectations

For synchronous (video) communication:

- School appropriate attire and location
- Camera on at all times
- Microphone muted on login

For asynchronous (email, texting, discussion boards, etc.) communication:

- Be polite and respectful in responses to forum posts of other students. Bullying and inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
- Upload only appropriate material.

- Write formally in email communication with instructor. Informal writing can be used in texting platforms such as skype and teams

Submit work on time and inform the instructor if you need an extension. Extensions will only be granted on occasion for exceptional circumstances.

Academic Honesty

Students are required to be academically honest at all times. Plagiarism can be defined as submitting someone else's ideas, words, images, or data without the proper acknowledgement of the source. Plagiarism is synonymous with stealing and fraud and is not tolerated at QVS.

Here are some common examples of plagiarism if the sources are not clearly cited:

- using words, phrases, or ideas that are not your own.
- paraphrasing the work of another person, even though you may have changed the wording or syntax.
- using facts or data not considered common knowledge.
- submitting a paper from an essay service or agency, even though you may have paid for it.
- submitting any work done by another person, even though he or she may have given you permission to use it.

You should also note that beyond written work, plagiarism may encompass computer data, research, musical scores, video programs, and visual arts.

Plagiarism is a serious offense, especially in an academic environment. QVS teachers must be able to rely on the students' integrity to maintain a climate for successful learning.

If you plagiarize even once, it will put into question all your previous work, so the consequences may go beyond redoing one assignment, and you may need to revisit your previously submitted work to prove mastery of your learning outcomes.

You should diligently avoid any deliberate or inadvertent plagiarism. When you are unsure if the acknowledgement of sources is needed, ask your teacher.

Regardless of whether a student has intentionally or unintentionally borrowed someone else's work without acknowledging it correctly, plagiarism will be dealt with as follows:

First offense: The student must redo the assignment(s) in question. The instructor will make sure the student understands how plagiarism came about and will give strategies to avoid it going forward. If it appears the plagiarism was intentional, parents and the director will be informed.

Second offense: The QVS director and the parent/guardian will be informed. A "D" will be assigned until the student has redone the assignment(s) in question.

Third offense: The instructor will refer the matter to the QVS director for further action.

QVS Statement of Purpose

QSI Virtual School is a diverse international, multicultural, online learning community, offering meaningful standards-based education through mastery learning.

We prepare and develop students to have confidence to pursue their dreams and to positively impact the world.

We challenge. We question. We care.