

# Advanced Placement Human Geography

Course description from the College Board: AP Human Geography introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding in the use and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socioeconomic organizations and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards.

This year-long class is available as a social science elective and can be taken at any grade level. The course prepares students for success on the national AP Exam in May, but also provides an opportunity to acquire critical thinking skills, to participate in class discussions, and to analyze complex primary sources and texts. Students do not need to have taken any previous social studies class to be eligible for this course.

Successful AP Human Geography students should have the following characteristics.

- Students should be interested in and be curious about the social sciences as this course touches most social science topics.
- Students should be organized and be able to meet deadlines. Effective time management and the ability to prioritize tasks are important. This means – keeping class materials readily at hand, keeping up with the unit calendar, making up work quickly when absent.
- Students should be willing to participate in class discussions, debates, presentations, and other active learning.
- Students should have strong reading comprehension skills. Assigned readings will be done outside of class. Class time and assessments will require analyzing and evaluating both text and non-text materials.
- Students should be able to move beyond memorized material and answer a variety of stimulus-based multiple-choice questions, interpreting reading passages, graphs, tables, maps, and charts.

Homework Expectations:

- Students are expected to read the text and assigned readings. Reading should be completed on a regular schedule to keep up with the course content as presented.
- The reading needs to be thorough, with an emphasis on taking notes (with a study guide).
- In-class time is dedicated to active listening and participation in discussion, debates, presentations and simulations.

Assessments:

- Minor assessment quizzes will be given over the textbook reading. (1 per chapter)
- There will be 4 units in the fall semester and 3 units in the spring semester covering substantial content. Each major assessment test will mimic parts of the national AP exam.
  - Day 1 will be 50 stimulus based multiple-choice questions (SBMCQ) that must be completed in 50 minutes.
  - Day 2 will consist of the completion of Free Response questions. These writing assignments will be broken down into 7 parts. Each part will be answered individually and a cumulative score given.
- Each semester will have at least one project that will be counted as a major assessment.