

AP® Human Geography: Syllabus 2017/2018

Mr. Nelson Room: G212 **Phone:** X7545 **Email:** jnelson@pittsburg.k12.ca.us

Course Overview: AP® Human Geography is a yearlong course that focuses on the distribution, processes, and effects of human populations on the planet. Units of study include population, migration, culture, language, religion, ethnicity, political geography, economic development, industry, agriculture, and urban geography. Emphasis is placed on geographic models and their applications. Case studies from around the globe are compared to the situation in both the United States and locally. Internet activities and local fieldtrips are used to explore certain topics.

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface.
- To learn about and employ the methods of geographers, especially including observation, mapmaking, data gathering and reporting, and technical writing.
- To employ spatial concepts, geographic vocabulary, and landscape interpretation to a variety of locations and situations around the globe and in local areas.
- To develop a geographic perspective with which to view the landscape and understand current events.

Teaching Strategies: I have structured my class around four activities: (1) discussion of key terms and concepts, (2) examination of case studies, (3) practice of key geographical skills, and (4) practice of written expression via free-response questions. A typical day includes several of these activities. The fourth main activity is the one I use most commonly: practice of key geographical skills. Nearly every day I ask students to examine a map(s) or graphed or textual information and respond to it using such concepts as scale, region, location and place, or association and interconnection.

Materials: The following is a list of materials you must bring to class each day:

3 Ring Binder (Only Used For This Class!!!!)

Multiple Pens or Pencils (Pens Preferred)

Colored Pencils or Crayons (NO MARKERS!!!)

Highlighter (Any Color)

College Rule Binder Paper (YOU WILL TAKE NOTES ON THIS AND PUT IN 3 Ring Binder)

The Cultural Landscape Textbook (EVERYDAY!!!)

Practices (Home/Classwork)

Assigned Seating: We will have assigned seats in this class by the second week of school. When the bell rings you need to be in your assigned seat with your notebook out working on the Do Now or you will be marked tardy.

Learning Team: Throughout this class you will be working closely with the person sitting next to you. This is your Learning Partner and the two of you make up your Learning Team. During class discussions, this is the person whom you will be interacting with and should be your first contact if you are absent and need to find out what you missed. You should exchange contact information with this person, email, phone number etc. Do not abuse this information and use it only for the purpose of getting information about class work or to communicate about class projects.

Class Discussions: Many of our class sessions will focus around class discussions. Each discussion will take place at the same time as a guided lecture. In these discussions, I will be asking lots of questions to help you examine what we are studying from different angles. Most often I will pose a question and then give you a few moments to talk it over with your Learning Partner before randomly calling on a few students to share their thoughts. During discussions/Lectures, talking should only be occurring with your Learning Partner when directed or with me if I have called on you for an answer. Please be respectful to your classmates as they share their ideas. Our classroom should be a safe place where everyone can express themselves without fear of judgment.

Expectations:

- Show respect towards everyone. When the instructor, or a fellow student, is talking you need to stop talking.
- Be on time, prepared to work hard and think.
- Have a lot of fun.
- Achieve the benchmarks and standards set up by the AP College Board

Classroom Policies: Student will adhere to all school codes and rules, including but not limited to:

- **No hats/hoodies** – If hat is not removed, it can be taken till the end of the day.
- **No gum, food, or beverages in class** – Exception is bottled water, no cups or other such containers. Offense will result in confiscation of food or beverage.
- **No application of make-up** – Consequence is confiscation of said make-up till end of day.
- **No headsets or ear buds** – These will be confiscated till end of day.
- **No personal note writing and passing**
- **Students must be in their seats and prepared when the tardy bell rings** – If not, the student will be considered tardy.
- **No electronic devices** – Not to be out of pocket for any reason. Confiscated if seen in class.
- **Student will come to class each day prepared to work.**

Student Evaluation

Students' grades are based on the completion of assignments and study guides (30 percent), class participation and collaboration (10 percent), Semester Project (10 percent), Reading Quizzes (10 percent), and exams (40 percent). Half of the exam grade is for multiple-choice questions and the other half for free-response questions. I also drop the lowest exam score each semester!

Grades are assigned as indicated here:

	B+ 87–89%	C+ 77–79%	D+ 67–69%	F 59–0%
A 93–100%	B 83–86%	C 72–76%	D 62–66%	
A- 90–92%	B- 80–82%	C- 70–71%	D- 60–61%	

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating is a serious offense. If you are caught cheating on a major assignment, exam, essay, or project you will face consequences that may include failure of the class at my discretion.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY PARENT AND STUDENT SIGNATURE SHEET

I have read the rules and statements in the AP Human Geography Syllabus and agree to follow them. I understand that these rules are open to change if needed.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____