

# AP Human Geography

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**Text:** Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2014.

Articles and readings as assigned, provided in class.

## Description:

The AP Human Geography course provides students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college-level introductory human geography courses. The course follows a systematic approach employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. I will also teach about, and have the students put into practice, the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. AP Geography is a rigorous year long course that focuses on preparing students to take and pass the AP Human Geography test to earn college credit.

## Objectives:

- The main objective of this course is to prepare students to take and pass the AP Human Geography exam. To that end, the following are the main objectives of the class:
  - 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 including "zooming in" from a global to a local perspective and conversely using local applications of concepts as a microcosm to understand concepts around the world.

## Course Materials:

- 3 ring binder (1.5 or 2 inch)
- Notebook rather than just loose-leaf notebook paper
- Book Cover
- Blue or black pen & pencil
- Note Cards or Sticky Notes
- Variety of Highlighters

## Course Topics:

1. Geography: Its Nature and Perspective
  - August 22 – September 15 (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter)
  - Rubenstein Chapter 1

- Main Topics:
    - Definitions of Geography
    - Globes v. Maps
    - Map Scale and Projection
    - Basics of Map Interpretation
    - Models of Diffusion
    - Thematic Maps
2. Population and Migration
- September 18 – October 18 (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter)
  - Rubenstein Chapters 2 & 3
  - Main Topics:
    - Population distribution and density and how they affect the world
    - Demographic patterns (age, sex, race, and ethnicity)
    - Interpretation of population pyramids
    - Understanding and applying Demographic Transition Model and its limits
    - Fertility, mortality, natalism v. antinatalism
    - Push and pull factors of migration and its effects
    - Major migrations of modern era
    - International migration and refugees
3. Cultural Patterns and Processes
- October 23 – December 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter)
  - Rubenstein Chapters 4, 5, & 6
  - Main Topics:
    - Culture traits, diffusion, acculturation, assimilation, and globalization
    - Popular and folk culture differences and examples
    - Cultural landscapes and cultural identity
    - Cultural determinism and possibilism
    - Ethnicity and gender
    - Language families, dialects, pidgin languages, lingua franca
    - Ethnic v. Universalizing religions
    - Branches, denominations, and sects
    - Cultural features, sacred sites
4. Political Organization of Space
- December 4 – January 10 (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter)
  - Rubenstein Chapter 7 & 8
  - Main Topics:
    - Discuss territoriality, boundaries, where boundaries originate
    - Federal v. Unitary governments
    - The “Isms” - colonialism, imperialism, socialism, communism, fascism
    - Spatial relationships between politics and ethnicity, economy, and environment
    - Compare and contrast supranationalism and devolution
    - Electoral geography and gerrymandering
    - Causes of conflicts, terrorism
5. Agriculture and Environmental Effects
- January 16 – February 9 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)
  - Rubenstein Chapter 10
  - Main Topics:
    - Development of agriculture and second agricultural revolution
    - Agricultural in MDCs v. LDCs

- Agricultural models – Von Thunen and settlement patterns
  - Green revolution, biotechnology, and future of food development
  - Farmers in modern economy - advantages and disadvantages
  - What is grown where and why? Interaction of climate and agriculture
6. Industrialization and Economic Development
- February 12 – March 9 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)
  - Rubenstein Chapters 9 & 11
  - Main Topics:
    - Changing roles of energy and technology
    - Industrial Revolution's impacts on modern society
    - Development gap, sustainable development
    - Economic core, periphery and semi-periphery countries and reasons for particular classification
    - Models of economic localization like bid rent, industrial location, economic development and world systems
    - Spatial organization of the world economy
    - International business practices and impacts
    - Deindustrialization and economic restructuring
    - Globalization and international division of labor
    - Government policies towards economies
7. Cities and Urban Land Use
- March 12 – April 20 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)
  - Rubenstein Chapters 12 & 13
  - Main Topics:
    - Urbanization patterns and rural-urban migration streams
    - Urban systems and models of city development like concentric zone, etc.
    - Understand demographic and social structures in cities
    - Explain transportation and infrastructure issues
    - Explain political organization of urban areas
    - Discuss urban planning and design, ghettoization, uneven development and gentrification
    - Explain patterns of race, ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic status in cities
    - Provide impacts of suburbanization and edge cities
8. Review for AP Test
- April 23 – May 17 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)
  - Rubenstein Chapters 1-13

**Requirements:**

- The most important requirement that all students need to understand is that this is a college-level course. This is not a junior high class or even a high school class. Significant work will be expected of students to succeed in the class with even more work expected if the student desires to pass the AP test to earn college credit. Students should be prepared to have increased homework loads.
  - Parents and students should be aware that advanced academic programs such as Advanced Placement (AP) will require additional hours of homework and study outside of the classroom.
  - The mantra of AP Human Geography will be that the students **ALWAYS** have homework. That doesn't mean that every day will require hours of course work, however, there will almost always be something that could be worked on for some point in the future. If you

can't do any geography work one night, you know that you will have something to take care of the next night.

- Learn now to split your assignments into chunks – decide how many pages of a study guide you're going to do every night – and then stick to it!
- At the start of each class every day, we will have a "Warm-Up" that is associated with the map we are currently studying, as well as questions from the topic we are looking at.

### **Evaluation:**

I am going to do my best to prepare you for the AP Human Geography Test – I'm on your side. I'm not trying to ruin your life; I'm trying to increase your chances of passing the AP test.

- Students will take tests at the end of each unit. Each test will focus on that unit, however, they will also build on the prior knowledge from previous units – so you will need to remember data from previous units, especially for the Free Response Questions (just like the AP Test will require you to remember information from all the units.) My tests are hard – just like the AP test in May will be. It will be easier if you stay caught up with assignments and study.
- Students will create hand written vocabulary words and definitions (on flash cards or paper) for the vocabulary words of each unit. To me, half of understanding a concept is knowing its related vocabulary. As such, learning the meanings of the words related to the subjects we're studying is extremely important. Lists will be provided to students. Some words that are important to the understanding the concepts will be included in the lists that are not in our book's glossary.
- Students will be expected to read the entirety of The Cultural Landscape (affectionately known as "Rubenstein") throughout the school year. I will provide pre-reading activities to help the students focus on the most important information of the chapter. Study guides will be provided to students to help them understand the text while reading. It is expected that students will fill out the study guides as they read the text. Please do yourself a favor and don't look at the study guide as something to do a quick job and turn in, never to look at again. The study guide is my way of walking you through reading a college level text.
- Additional extra credit assignments are available. With work, it will be possible for students to raise their grade.

### **The AP Human Geography Test:**

As the entire purpose of this class is to prepare you to take the AP Human Geography test, each student taking the class is highly encouraged to take the test. It will take place on **May 18, 2018** and will be administered by high school personnel. The fee for taking the AP Test is \$93. Generally, you will need to decide whether or not you will be taking the test and have the fee paid to the high school by March – more details will be given in class.

The AP Human Geography Exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes in length and includes a 75 question multiple choice section (60 minutes) and 75-minute free-response (essay) section. Each section accounts for half of the student's AP Exam score. Students who take the test will receive their scores in July.