

Course Syllabus for AP Human Geography 2011-2012
Challenge Early College High School
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Course Overview:

AP Human Geography is a fast paced, year long college level course that is geared to preparing students to be successful in college and on the AP Human Geography test on May 18th, 2012. Depending on the college, scores of 3-5 usually receive college credit thus shortening college time and costs. The course will introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped the understanding, use and alteration of the Earth's surface. They will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. The student will also develop the skills to:

- Use and think about maps and spatial data
- Understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in places
- Recognize and interpret at different scales, from local to regional to global, the relationships among patterns and processes
- Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process
- Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places

Format of the Course:

The students are expected to be self-directed and self-disciplined to keep pace with the readings, lectures and meet the deadlines for the various case studies and projects both as individuals and in groups. The course is divided into thematic units that correspond to the College Board's Course Description: The Nature and Perspectives of geography, Population & Migration, Cultural Patterns & Processes, Political organization of space, Cities & Urban land use, Industrialization & Economic Development, Agricultural and rural land use.

The usual sequence of each unit will be as follows: readings, lecture, individual or group projects utilizing the concept(s), quizzes and unit tests which includes Multiple Choice and Free Response Questions(essays). Products may be in the form of posters, presentations, spreadsheets, collaborative products, maps, and written essays. There will be a mock AP Human Geography exam in late April in addition to afternoon and weekend review sessions to provide additional support for your success on exam day. The format of the exam is 75 multiple choice questions worth 50% and 3 Free Response Questions worth 50%. It is a challenge, but we can do it! I am available periods 1 and 8 for individual conferences if needed and by appointment.

Course Materials:

Texts: *deBlij, Harm, Human Geography: People, Place and Culture*. 9. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2009. Print.

Rubenstein, James, *The Cultural Landscape: People, Place and Culture*. 10. Boston, MA: Pearson, 2011-2008. Print.

Atlas: *Gover, Brett et al, Atlas of World Geography*. Rand McNally, 2003. Print.

Video series: *The Power of Place: World Regional Geography*; Latz, Gil and Gilbert, Sarah; the Annenberg/CPB Project; Cambridge Studios et al., 1997.

Periodicals: International and local newspapers, *The Economist*, *National Geographic*, etc.

Web sites: Census.gov, Gapminder.org, Nationalgeographic.com, TED.com, etc.

This list is not a complete list by any means and more sources will be used as they become available and relevant unit by unit.

Assessment:

Grading of the course will be as follows:

Class Participation (Discussion, dialogue, etc.)	10%
Homework (Readings, questions, web postings, etc.)	20%
Quizzes (MC and FRQ's)	20%
Unit Tests, Projects, Case Studies	50%

Grades will follow the schools' guidelines of 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 75-79=C, and 70-74=D. Any grade below a 70 will be an F.

Each semester grade is composed of 2 nine weeks grades (40 % each for a total of 80%) and a Final Exam which is 20% of the final grade. Since the APHG Exam is the last AP exam and is within 2 weeks of the schools' final exam, no comprehensive exam is administered at the end of May. The final exam grade will be the average of the 2 nine weeks grade for Semester 2.

Course Schedule of Topics:

1. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives (de Blij ch.1)
 - a. Geo as a field of study
 - b. Evolution of terms and models
 - c. Key concepts: space, place, and scale
 - d. Sources of ideas and data: the field, census data, etc.
2. Population (de Blij ch.2 & 3)-“West Bank-Israel Comparative Pyramids” case study
 - a. Geographical analysis of population
 - i. Boundaries, area units, and densities
 - ii. Scale and process
 - iii. Population and environment
 - b. Pop distribution and composition
 - i. Factors affecting distribution
 - ii. Consequences of particular distributions
 - iii. Patterns of age, sex, race and ethnicity
 - iv. Responses to natural hazards
 - c. Population growth and decline over time
 - i. Trends and projections: Demographic Transition Model
 - ii. Regional variations of demographic transitions
 - iii. Patterns of fertility, mortality, and health
 - iv. Effects of pro- and anti-natalist policies
 - d. Population movement (Rubenstein ch.3)
 - i. Major voluntary and involuntary migrations
 - ii. Short-term, local movements and activity space
3. Cultural Patterns and Processes (de Blij ch. 4) “America’s Musical Monolith: the spread and domination of Hip-hop” case study
 - a. Concepts of Culture
 - i. Traits and complexes
 - ii. Diffusion
 - iii. Acculturation
 - iv. Cultural regions and realms
 - b. Cultural differences, (de Blij chs. 5, 6, 7) “Dummies Guide to Ethnic Places” case study
 - i. Language
 - ii. Religion
 - iii. Ethnicity
 - iv. Gender
 - v. Pop and folk culture
 - c. Environmental impact of Cultural attitudes and practices
 - d. Cultural landscapes and identity “Religious Spaces and Final Resting Places: Shaping the Cultural Landscape” case study
 - i. Values and preferences
 - ii. Symbolic landscapes and sense of place
4. Political organization of space (de Blij ch.8)
 - a. Territorial dimensions of politics
 - i. Concept of territoriality

- ii. Nature and meaning of boundaries
 - iii. Influences of boundaries on identity, interaction and exchange
 - b. Evolution of contemporary political pattern
 - i. Assumptions underlying the Nation-State ideal
 - ii. Colonialism and imperialism
 - iii. Internal political boundaries and arrangements
 - c. Challenges to inherited political-territorial arrangements
 - i. Changing nature of sovereignty
 - ii. Fragmentation, unification, alliance: Devolution to Supranationalism
 - iii. Spatial relationships between political patterns and ethnicity, economy and environment

- 5. Cities and Urban Land Use (de Blij ch. 9) “The Urban Game,” “Two-Cities: LDC and MDC”
 - a. Definitions of urbanism
 - b. Origin and evolutions of cities
 - i. Historical patterns of urban centers
 - ii. Cultural context and urban form
 - iii. Urban growth and rural-urban migration
 - iv. Rise of Megacities
 - v. Models of Urban systems
 - vi. Comparative models of city structure: Concentric to Multinucleic
 - c. Functional character of contemporary cities
 - i. Changing employment mix
 - ii. Changing demographic and social structures
 - d. Built environment and social space, “The Anatomy of a Riot: France 2005”
 - i. Transportation and infrastructure
 - ii. Political organization of urban areas
 - iii. Locational decisions, conflicts, and hazards
 - iv. Uneven development, ghettos and gentrification
 - v. Patterns of race, ethnicity, gender and class
 - vi. Impacts of suburbanization and edge cities
 - e. Responses to urban growth
 - i. Urban planning and design
 - ii. Community action and initiatives

- 6. Industrialization and Economic Development (de Blij chs. 12,10)
 - a. Character of Industrialization
 - i. Sectors: primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary
 - ii. Specialization and comparative advantage
 - iii. Transport and communications
 - iv. Models of Industrial location
 - b. Spatial aspects of the rise of industrial economies
 - i. Changing energy resources
 - ii. Economic cores and peripheries
 - iii. Models of development and critiques
 - c. Contemporary global patterns of industrialization

- i. Linkages and interdependencies
 - ii. Changing patterns of activity
 - iii. Deindustrialization
 - iv. Economic initiatives: Government policies
- d. Impacts of industrialization
- i. Time-space compression
 - ii. Social stratification
 - iii. Health and quality of life
 - iv. Environment and sustainability

7. Agriculture and rural land use (de Blij ch. 11) “Agriculture type Input-Output presentation”
 - a. Development and diffusion of agriculture
 - i. Neolithic/Agricultural Revolution
 - ii. Evolution of energy resources and technology
 - iii. Regions of plant and animal domestication
 - b. Major Agricultural production regions
 - i. Major Bio-climatic zones
 - ii. Production and food supply: linkages and flows
 - c. Rural land use and change
 - i. Land use and location models: Agricultural types to Von Thunen
 - ii. Settlement patterns and urban-rural connections
 - iii. Environmental and social impacts of intensification
 - d. Impacts of modern agriculture change
 - i. Green Revolution, “Pro-Con Essay”
 - ii. Consumption, nutrition and hunger
 - iii. Industrial/commercial agriculture
 - iv. Environmental change: desertification, deforestation, etc.

This is not a calendar and is subject to change. Students are expected to keep up with assignments using their planners.