

## **AP Human Geography Syllabus**

Course Description: The purpose of the AP Human Geography one semester course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Human geography incorporates the concepts and methods associated with several of the disciplines within the social sciences, including economics, geography, history, and sociology. The course topics include the following:

Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives

Population

Cultural Patterns and Processes

Political Organization of Space

Agriculture and Rural Land Use

Industrialization and Economic Development

Cities and Urban Land Use

The AP Human Geography course at x High School has been designed according to the course description set forth by The College Board, who administers the AP Human Geography Exam in May. The AP Human Geography course at Voorhees High School addresses the NJ Core Curriculum Social Studies Content Standard 6.6 for Geography. Further, the AP Human Geography course at x High School has been designed to address the 18 National Geography Standards developed by The National Council for Geographic Education.

Course Texts and Materials:

Course Text: Rubenstein, The Cultural Landscape 11e, Rubenstein

Supplemental articles from The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, National Geographic, and The Atlantic Monthly

Rand McNally Desk Atlas, 2006

Supplemental readings shall include but not be limited to selections from the writings of Marx, Wallenstein, Mumford, Braudel, Friedman, Krugman, McNeil, and Pacey

People, Places, and Change, Annenberg/ CPB Collection

Course Content: The course will be taught in seven units to correspond directly with the seven topics outlined in The College Board's AP Human Geography course description. The percentages indicated on the outline reflect the approximate percentage that each topic constitutes on the multiple-choice section of the AP Exam.

## Course Outline:

### I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives (5-10%)

Geography as a field of inquiry

Evolution of key geographical concepts and models associated with notable geographers

Key concepts underlying the geographic perspective: location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization

Key geographical skills

How to use and think about maps

How to understand and interpret the implications of associations of phenomena in places

How to recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes

How to define regions

How to characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places

New geographic technologies, such as GIS and GPS

Sources of geographical ideas and data, the field, census data

### II. Population (13-17%)

Geographical analysis of population

Density, distribution, and scale

Consequences of various densities and distributions

Patterns of composition: age, sex, race, and ethnicity

Population and natural hazards: past, present, and future

Population Growth

Historical trends and projections

Theories on population growth, including the Demographic Model

Patterns of fertility, mortality, and health

Regional variations of demographic transitions

Effects of population policies

Population Movement

Push and pull

Major voluntary and involuntary actions

Migration selectivity

Short-term, local movement, and activity space

III. Cultural Patterns and Processes (13-17%)

Concepts of culture

Traits

Diffusion

Acculturation

Cultural regions

Cultural Differences

Language

Religion

Ethnicity

Gender

Popular and folk culture

Environmental impact of cultural attitudes and practices

Cultural landscapes and cultural identity

Values and preferences

Symbolic landscapes and sense of place

Political Organization of Space (13-17%)

Territorial dimensions of politics

Concept of territoriality

Nature and meanings of boundaries

Influences of boundaries on identity, interaction, and exchange

Evolution of the contemporary political pattern

The nation-state concept

Colonialism and imperialism

Federal and unitary states

Challenges to inherited political-territorial arrangements

Changing nature of sovereignty

Fragmentation, unification, and alliance

Spatial relationships between political patterns and patterns of ethnicity, environment, and economy

Electoral geography, including gerrymandering

V. Agricultural and Rural Land Use (13-17%)

Development and diffusion of agriculture

Neolithic agricultural revolution

Second agricultural revolution

Major agricultural production regions

Agricultural systems associated with major bioclimatic zones

Various within major zones and the effect of markets

Linkages and flows among regions of food production and consumption

Rural land use and settlement patterns

Models of agricultural land use, including von Thunen's model

Settlement patterns associated with major agriculture types

Modern Commercial Agriculture

Third Agricultural revolution

Green Revolution

Biotechnology

Spatial organization and diffusion of industrial agriculture

Future food supplies and environmental impacts of agriculture

VI. Industrialization and Economic Development (13-17%)

Key concepts in industrialization and development

Growth and diffusion of industrialization

The changing roles of energy and technology

Industrial revolution

Evolution of economic cores and peripheries

Geographic critiques of models of economic localization, industrial location, economic development, and world systems

Contemporary patterns and impacts of industrialization and development

Spatial organization of the world economy

Variations in levels of development

Deindustrialization and economic restructuring

Pollution, health, and quality of life

Industrialization, environment change, and sustainability

Local development initiatives: government policies

VII. Cities and Urban Land Use (13-17%)

Definitions of urbanism

Origins and evolutions of cities

Historical patterns

Rural-urban migration and urban growth

Global cities and mega cities

Models of urban systems

Functional character of contemporary cities

Changing employment mix

Changing demographic and social structures

Built environment and social space

Competitive models of internal city structure

Transportation and infrastructure

Political organization of urban areas

Urban planning and design

Patterns of race, ethnicity, gender, and class

Uneven development, ghettoization, and gentrification

Impacts of suburbanization and edge cities