

AP Human Geography

Mrs. Lewis

Room 213

Course Overview

The purpose of the AP Human Geography 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. You will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. You will also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. (Source: <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>) Get ready to see the world with new eyes!

Skill Development

Upon successful completion of the course, students should have developed skills that enable them to:

- interpret maps and analyze geospatial data.
- understand and explain the implications of associations and networks among phenomena in places.
- recognize and interpret the relationships among patterns and processes at different scales of analysis.
- define regions and evaluate the regionalization process.
- characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places.
- read, outline and master college-level reading
- participate in college-level discussions and analyses
- negotiate challenging assignment expectations and timelines
- work cooperatively and collaboratively on projects
- cultivate essential map skills and knowledge
- integrate technology into their habits of learning, academic production and daily thinking

Course Expectations

AP Human Geography is a college level course. Students will take the AP Human Geography Exam in May (May 18, 8:00 am) which could earn college credit. Therefore, this course requires more effort than a regular high school course. Expect to work every day in class and expect out of class assignments. You will always have some work to complete. The expectations that you may have of me is to design meaningful learning experiences, support you in your learning of the material, provide you opportunities to practice your understanding and deliver meaningful feedback as regards your progress. My goal is to prepare you for the AP Exam. To that end, everything we do is designed with that goal in mind.

Course Materials

3-Ring binder with dividers

Plenty of paper

Pen with Blue or Black ink (There is no pencil on the AP written exam, you need to practice using a pen.)

Colored pencils (stored in classroom)

Highlighters, Thin Colored markers

Access to printer and Internet at home

Remind 101

To receive text reminders , text @mbjhaphg to 828-633-4030 (for text msgs) or email mbjhaphg@mail.remind101.com for email reminders. Parents are welcome to enroll.

Twitter

I have set up a twitter account for the class: @MBJHAPHG I will not follow you. I will post links to timely articles that relate to our content.

Textbooks

Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape, An Introduction to Human Geography*. 11th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2014.

Palmer, David. *Human Geography, Preparing for the Advanced Placement® Examination*. Des Moines: AMSCO, 2017.

Units of Study

Topic	Multiple-Choice Coverage on the AP Exam	Readings	Approximate Time
1. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives	5-10%	Rubenstein Chapter 1	4 Weeks
2. Population	13-17%	Rubenstein Chapter 2,3	4 Weeks
3. Cultural Patterns and Processes	13-17%	Rubenstein Chapter 4-6	6 Weeks
4. Political Organization of Space	13-17%	Rubenstein Chapter 7,8	5 Weeks
5. Agricultural and Rural Land Use	13-17%	Rubenstein Chapter 10, 14	4 Weeks
6. Industrialization and Urban Development	13-17%	Rubenstein Chapter 9, 11,	4 Weeks
7. Cities and Urban Land Use	13-17%	Rubenstein Chapter 12, 13	4 Weeks
Exam Review			4 Weeks

Absences

Most of your work will be distributed either through Canvas or Google Classroom. Please be sure to check both of these sites if you are absent. It is your responsibility to view and complete as much of the work as is possible before returning to school. You have up to three days to make arrangements with me regarding completion of any work. Missed quizzes and tests must be scheduled with me and mostly will be given before or after school or during AO.

Late Work

Late homework and daily assignments will be accepted late for up to 50% credit. Field work will be accepted with a 10% reduction for each day late. All work must be submitted before the unit test date. Each student is given one late "pass" for a graded assignment during the grading period. Passes may not be used for Reading Quizzes. Students using their 'pass' must turn in work within 7 days of the original due date to receive full credit. No test correction points will be awarded if the student has outstanding late work. Procrastination is not your friend.

Grading

Assessments – 65% (Given at the end of each unit)

Homework, Daily Assignments and Reading Quizzes – 20%

Field Work– 15%

Field Work

In order to truly learn geography, students must get out of the classroom to observe and collect data about people, cultures and their interaction with the natural environment. This is geographic fieldwork. You will have multiple opportunities to complete fieldwork on your own and as part of school field trips.

Academic Honesty

This class will be subject to the MBJH Policy on Academic Honesty. You should have received a copy; however, if you have questions, it is posted on my Canvas page. There are few things that bother me as much as cheating.

Notebooks

I will not be grading your notebook. You should keep all of your materials for the course. Additional copies of material are available on Canvas. An organized set of materials and notes will contribute greatly to your success in this class. I will provide assistance with organization in class and upon request.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Unapproved use of a cell phone will result in the phone being taken up and given to administration. Cell phones are absolutely NOT permitted in the classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, lunchrooms and locker rooms.

Behavior

There are few rules – don't break them.

1. Students will follow directions.
2. Students will behave ethically.
3. Students will do their best to learn and to demonstrate their learning.
4. Students will not disturb others in the process.

Extra Help

You are encouraged to consult me if you are having any concerns about not reaching your potential in this class. You may communicate your concerns in person either before school or during AO, by email or by phone. I am also available after school by appointment. (lewisa@mtnbrook.k12.al.us, 205-871-3516, ext. 7583)

Notes for Success (probably the most important section)

- Take exemplary notes both in class and on your textbook readings. Use a format that best suits you.
- Have a grasp of the material before we analyze it in class. Your understanding of difficult concepts will deepen when you have previewed the material.
- Avoid falling behind in the readings; we move quickly.
- Break up your reading in the textbook. It does not read like a novel. Give yourself time to absorb the information.
- I will grade everything that is assigned so please give me your best work always.
- **Ask for help.**
- Complete every task assigned and turn them in on time.
- The responsibility for knowing the material lies with you.
- Understand that it is difficult, but not impossible to receive an "A" or an "F" in this course.

I have read and agree to all of the AP Human Geography guidelines.

Student Signature

Parent Witness

A Note to Parents:

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and provide you with some information about this very exciting and challenging course, AP Human Geography. Your child is enrolled in a college level class with expectations and assignments commensurate with the level of content. However, while the expectations of understanding and performance are college level, the instruction is not. The course is one year long, instead of a semester. Additionally, it is my goal to provide support and instruction to one end – that they acquire sufficient knowledge and understanding to prepare them for the AP Human Geography Exam. The exam is scheduled for May 18, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. Students who achieve a score of 3, 4, or 5 on the exam will most likely receive college credit. Each college makes its own determination of credit hours allotted.

In addition, your child will be exposed to some interesting and thought-provoking ideas about the world they live in. I hope to provide them meaningful learning experiences, develop their critical analysis and thinking skills, and provide them with numerous opportunities to demonstrate their thinking and learning in presentations and writing. Some of the content is mature in nature, but please know I will use my best judgment and discretion in selecting appropriate material for class.

Your support is an important part of your child’s success in this course. To that end, I could use your assistance. Some of the ways that you can support their learning include: watching national and international news, discussing your reading and thinking about current events, and asking them to share with you the content and experiences in class. In addition, your emotional and motivational support is incredibly important. Please do not hesitate to communicate any concerns, ideas or questions that you may have about the course content or your child. The best way to reach me is by email (lewisa@mtnbrook.k12.al.us). I look forward to hearing from you and know we will have a great learning experience together.

Today, the students received the syllabus for the course which should be signed and relocated to their binder for reference throughout the year. (Please witness his or her signature.) He or she will also receive a detailed unit calendar of events. Calendars are provided to allow students to deploy sound time management and planning. These calendars will be provided for each unit and also posted on Canvas. Canvas and Google Classroom are an important part of the way I conduct my classes. Students can access information from class, practice quizzes, video clips and upcoming events calendars. If your child is absent from school, it is the source of makeup work. I also have set up Remind 101 for anyone (students or parents) who wish to receive text messages about upcoming assessments or due dates. To enroll see the directions provided in the syllabus.

AP Human Geography is a HuGe course in content, impact and authentic learning about the world we live in. I cannot wait to get started on our journey. Thank you for allowing me to spend time with your child and support his or her learning and growth.

Lisa Lewis

I have read and agree to the AP Human Geography guidelines.

Parent Signature

Date

Best parent phone contact and name

Best parent email contact and name