

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

2013-2014

Course Syllabus

Keep this in your binder for the entire school year!

<http://monarchaphuman.wordpress.com> Michelle.Albahae@browardschools.com

Course Overview:

AP Human Geography is a college level course taught in two high school semesters. The curriculum for the two-semester course is broken down into seven units of study outlined by the AP Human Geography Course description published by the College Board. The seven units of study include geography's nature and perspectives, population, culture, political geography, agriculture, industrial and economic development, and urban geography. Human Geography is the study of the patterns and processes of human activity on the earth's surface. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences.

Students will be expected to demonstrate their commitment to Advanced Placement level standards by being prepared with necessary materials when they arrive for class on time each day. They will be intelligently discussing information derived from assigned reading material and contribute positively to a scholarly atmosphere. Strong writing skills and advanced cognitive aptitude are required to succeed on the college level, and it is for this reason that these skills will be emphasized throughout this course.

Course Objectives

1. Use and think about spatial data sets to analyze patterns on the earth's surface reflect and influence physical human processes.
2. Understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena in different places around the world.
3. Recognize and interpret the relationships among patterns and processes of change at different scales.
4. Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process, especially as it impacts our world today.
5. Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places, and to understand the ways in which events and processes operating in one place can influence those in other places.
6. Master the essential college skills of analytical reading, essay writing, and directed research.

Curriculum Scope and Sequence

Unit I: Geography; It's Nature and Perspectives

Unit II: Population Patterns and Processes

Unit III: Cultural Patterns and Processes

Unit IV: Political Organization of Space

Unit V: Agriculture and Rural Land Use

Unit VI: Industrialization and Economic Development

Unit VII: Cities and Urban Land Use

Textbook:

Rubenstein: The Cultural Landscape

Study Guides

Students have been strongly encouraged to purchase additional reading material to assist them in gaining a full understanding of the concepts of the course. Barron's study guide as well as Kaplan will be extremely beneficial! Again, they are not required, but are HIGHLY suggested. They are available at various retail stores and online bookstores. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO PURCHASE ONE!

Additional Course Materials

- Highlighters, Pens, Pencils, Colored Pencils, Markers
- USB Drive
- Binder(s), Paper, Folders...etc. DO NOT COME TO CLASS UNPREPARED.

Blog: [Http://monarchaphuman.wordpress.com](http://monarchaphuman.wordpress.com)
Students are responsible for checking the website daily!

Students are expected to have access to the internet for the duration of this course. There will be very important information posted to the blog such as lectures, worksheets, outlines and homework assignments. If no internet is available at the student's home, other arrangements should be made ahead of time in order for the student not to fall behind. Internet is available on campus at Monarch High School, as well as at public libraries and various other places.

Students will need to register on the blog in order to be able to complete assignments and comments. Please make sure that you have an email address that is appropriate for school!

Class Expectations

- Show up on time every day with proper materials and ready to learn.
- Treat every person and everything in the room with respect.
- Participate in the learning environment without creating distractions as you are expected to comprehend all material covered in class.
- Remember that you are essentially taking a college course, therefore you will be responsible for reading and understanding material outside of the classroom as well.
- Ask for assistance when needed!

Current Event Materials and Presentations (see other paper for more information)

One of the best ways to demonstrate comprehension and application of the various topics discussed in this course is to apply them to current events around the world. Students are expected to read the newspaper (or a digital copy), watch news broadcasts and discuss world news on a daily basis!

Each student will be presenting a current event topic at the beginning of class on to their scheduled date. A class schedule will be given out to the students prior to their assigned presentation date. Sometimes, a topic will be specified for the students to focus their current event presentation on, other times they are free to choose their own topic. The presentations will be done for the first 10-15 minutes of class. There are usually 2-4 students assigned to present each day.

Suggested websites for current events

News Websites:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/> (BBC World News)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1001> (National Public Radio)

<http://www.reuters.com/> (Reuters)

<http://wn.com/> (World News)

<http://www.nytimes.com> (New York Times)

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com> (Sun-Sentinel Local News Paper)

<http://www.cnn.com/studentnews> (CNN Student News)

<http://www.economist.com> (The Economist)

Detailed directions for current event presentations will be given on a separate sheet of paper, and are available on the website.

Student Assessments

Assignments vary in length and difficulty on a daily basis. For each of the seven units, the students will be assigned a unit project. These projects will take on many different forms. They might be individual research projects, group presentations using power point and/or videos, website discussions, or field excursions. A test is also given at the end of each unit that consists of a multiple-choice section as well as a Free Response Question.

Approximately every two weeks students will have a map quiz over a culture region of the world to ensure general knowledge and spatial layout of the earth.

Assessments include, but are not limited to, the following:

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|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| - Unit Tests (100 points) | - Vocabulary Unit Assignment (40 points) | - Classwork (varies) |
| - Chapter Tests (50 points) | - Vocabulary Quizzes (50 points) | - Projects (varies) |
| - Map Tests (50 points) | - Current Events (20 points) | - Homework (varies) |

Please note the fact that an assignment is completed does not guarantee full credit. The amount of credit earned will reflect the quality and effort put forth by the student. The points above may vary from assignment to assignment.

Homework Policy: Homework is due at the beginning of class. Do not plan to finish it during the first few minutes of class. Late homework will not be accepted unless you have an excused absence. If you miss class because you are late to school, then it is your responsibility to give it to me before the end of the day. If you miss class because you are being dismissed early, then it is your responsibility to give me the assignment(s) before you leave.

Students WILL have some type of assignment for this class each day, including weekends and non-school days. It may be working on their notebook, assigned reading, reviewing for a test, or a more formal assignment. As a general rule, college classes demand 2 to 3 hours of work outside class for each hour spent in the classroom. You should expect that your work is going to take about 1 hour each day. If there is no formal homework assignment given, it is expected that students will be reviewing vocabulary and other important information **EACH NIGHT!**

Academic Integrity

“Helping” means reading through articles and texts together, thinking about questions, discussing possible interpretations. There is great value in doing this; it can truly help. “Cheating” is turning in the same assignment as someone else (simply copying another’s work, or part of their work, or adding a name to a completed assignment/project, etc.) Failure to credit your sources accurately (including your text, books, encyclopedias, CD-ROMs, Internet sources, or other materials) will result in no credit for the assignment. This obviously also includes looking at anyone else’s answers during any assignment and will result in no credit for all parties involved.

You begin the year with a clean slate, for I have no reason not to trust you. However, if this trust is violated, it will be dealt with appropriately and immediately. Be honest and treat each other with respect. I expect each student to be actively ready, respectful, and responsible at all times in and out of our class. I have high expectations, both in grades, attitude, and in a genuine appreciation for the Social Studies. I expect every student to uphold and follow the School Handbook, as well as my own Classroom Rules and Directions. Students are to follow all current and future posted and announced rules/procedures at all times. Written in this Syllabus is a contract for the students. Everyone will be treated fairly and equally; all must follow the syllabus.

THIS IS A COLLEGE LEVEL CLASS, AND EXPECTATIONS OF YOU WILL BE THE SAME AS AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL!

Student Responsibilities, Expectations and Assignment Descriptions

Due to the Advanced Placement label on the class, and the opportunity to earn college credit at the end of the year, students will be expected to approach this class as a college-level course putting in college-level effort.

1) You begin the year with a clean slate, for I have no reason not to trust you. However, if this trust is violated, it will be dealt with appropriately and immediately. Be honest and treat each other with respect. I expect each student to be actively ready, respectful, and responsible at all times in and out of our class. I have high expectations, both in grades, attitude, and in a genuine appreciation for the Social Studies. I expect every

student to uphold and follow the School Handbook, as well as my own Classroom Rules and Directions. Students are to follow all current and future posted and announced rules/procedures at all times. Written in this Syllabus is a contract for the students. Everyone will be treated fairly and equally; all must follow the syllabus.

2) Everything you do in this class from the moment you first step in to the very final second of class in May is worth a grade and essential to understanding the course. ***You must put your name, date, and period on every assignment you turn in. I will toss any assignment without a proper heading into the recycling bin and you will receive a zero. Too bad, so sad***

3) If you have an “excused absence” you must provide documentation and turn in all assignments the number of days you were absent. If you are aware of an assignment prior to being absent, that assignment is due the day you return. Tests are very important. You must notify your instructor if you are going to miss an exam. No excuses. If you miss a test date, you must retake within the number of days you were absent (or teacher notice). If you miss your retake, you will receive an automatic ZERO. No excuses. Stay in communication with your instructor. Students cannot “make up” missed assignments or exams at the end of a grading period to “boost” their grade. If you know you are going to be absent (especially the day of an exam or quiz/pop quiz), a certain number of days, you must be responsible and meet with me either in the morning or after school to discuss the situation. Do NOT ask during class time, ever!: “What did I miss or What did we Do yesterday?” You should be checking the website, or emailing the teacher. Never ask during class (unless The Instructor approaches YOU!)

- I will never accept the excuse: “I didn’t know it was due today!” I hand out Due Dates way in advance and give paper outlines for Major projects and assignments and Announce Due Dates constantly. I also do my very best to post any homework and major due dates on the website, in the classroom, email updates, and anywhere else I can. If you were absent the day before, your missed assignment and any class handouts, etc. may also ask to have them sent to you via email.

- You must take any exam or quiz the day you return to class. NO Excuses. You must make arrangements and follow through If you do not, the grade earned will be a ZERO. NO Exceptions! This is at the discretion of the instructor

4) Students will work in our classroom “From Bell-to-bell-and Beyond!” And those Bells do NOT Dismiss you. Apathy and disrespect for peers, instructor, and School will not be tolerated. Simply put, if a student follows The Instructor’s Classroom Philosophy, he/she will do just fine!

5) Students are expected to read the assigned text **every night**. If no actual homework assignment is given, students will be expected to be reviewing vocabulary terms and reviewing the text.

****ALSO**** Understand that the lectures in this course are **NOT** a replacement for readings from the assigned textbook, but should be used to supplement to further enhance the text!!! Some test questions will come directly from the textbook, and may not be covered in lectures!!

Required Assignment: Note-taking.

For each chapter that is assigned, students will be required to take their own notes (to be kept in a notebook). These will be checked periodically and may be used on reading quizzes. Students are encouraged to compare their notes to the lectures/discussions in class.

6) Unit Vocabulary: Students will be responsible for completing the vocabulary in the specified format and turning it in on the day of the Unit (or sub-unit) Test. **This Assignment is to be hand-written only! Any typed vocabulary assignments will be given a zero!**

Word	Definition (IN YOUR OWN WORDS/RELATE IT TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY)	Picture/Diagram/Visual Representation of word

****note**** you are not graded on your artwork or drawing ability, but your visual **MUST** reflect the definition/concept

7) Map quizzes of culture regions around the world will be given approximately every 2 weeks. These are announced ahead of time. Outline Maps will be given out by the teacher or downloaded by the student from the website. It is suggested you use websites such as www.ilike2learn.com as a study aid.

8) Late Work Policy:

- I do not accept late work for this Course. There is no Late policy in this college-level course because this course is advanced and weighted. No excuses. This will be very, very difficult to get used to, but get used to it now. "Late" means not turning in a completed assignment on-time during class in the appropriate spot before the instructor picks up the assignment and gives the "pick up" warning. You leave it at home, in your locker, etc. Too Bad, So sad. Yes, you may turn in any late assignment to see how you did, however you will receive no credit for that assignment. This is a college-level course and late work is not accepted. I expect every student to turn in all assignments completed and ON TIME. It is not fair for those that followed directions if students that turn in things late get the same score.

- You must become responsible, plan ahead, schedule your assignments and due dates appropriately and not procrastinate. I understand emergencies beyond your control do happen in life. If there is an emergency situation, I must have your reason(s) for not being able to submit an assignment on time written with the date, your signature, and valid reasons BEFORE an assignment is due and a hand-written letter from a parent/guardian attached. We will come up with a way for you to turn in an assignment later. You will have to do this either in the morning or after school. NEVER ask me to discuss such emergency situations during class. Your parent/guardian will receive a contact about this situation. Your instructor is human, so please talk to him and I will come up with a plan of action with your parent/guardian in case of some urgent situations.

- Work that is completed, on time, and professionally done with full effort and genuine appreciation is always capable of earning extra points.

9) Practice FRQs will be assigned on a frequent basis in order to prepare for unit tests and the AP exam.

HINT: In order to be successful in writing a high-quality FRQ response, you MUST keep up with the vocabulary and terminology used throughout this course!

FRQs: This course utilizes the FRQ, Free Response Question, to serve as short 'essays' that assess your understanding of human geography content. Generally, we will have an FRQ at the end of each unit and will continually practice our FRQ skills as they a large portion of the AP exam.

There will be 3 Free Response Questions on the AP exam. The 3 questions will be worth 50% of your total test score and will be combined with the 75 question multiple choice section, also worth 50%.

10) Participation by students is necessary in this class. In fact, the format of a college-level class thrives on class discussions! Students will be encouraged and expected to fully engage in and add meaningful commentary to class discussions.

11) The workbooks and study guides that correspond with the textbook are to be utilized to ensure proper comprehension of material.

12) Form study-groups!

13) Visit the website regularly and check the UNITs tab for extra readings and guides to understanding the information presented in class

14) Comments and discussions on website topics may not be graded on a day-to-day basis, but must be done **BY MIDNIGHT ON THE DUE DATE** to be considered "on time".

15) Students are expected to refer to the calendar given to them before each unit (or sub-unit) regarding chapters covered, approximate time spent and major assignments. Keep them in your binders at all times.

AGAIN, WELCOME TO AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY!
“GEOGRAPHY IS EVERYTHING, & EVERYTHING IS GEOGRAPHY”

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY 2013-2014

Dear Advanced Placement (AP) Parents, student, and legal guardians,

We are very excited that you want to be in AP Human Geography. Students in AP Human Geography learn tools, concepts, and methods of inquiry to analyze and answer some of the geographic patterns and processes of human beings and their interactions with the environment. Open house will be on Tuesday September 10, 2014 from 6:00-7:45pm

Students choose to take this AP Human Geography Course. It is a college-level course designed so that students may potentially earn college credit through the AP Human Geography Exam, which is administered by the College Board in May. To prepare all students for such rigor, all quizzes and examinations are timed. In separate cases, extra time and accommodations will be allowed according to official documentation. All students are welcomed to join the class. All students must agree to the course syllabus, contract, and expectations.

An AP student is expected to complete all assignments on time and with genuine interest and appreciation for the course. An AP student is expected to follow the course syllabus and outline. An AP student is required to complete all assignments, readings, and project on time. An AP student is hardworking and responsible. An AP student wants to grow and improve themselves. The Freshmen Advanced Placement Excalibur Program is a prestigious college preparatory program that includes a rigorous curriculum and places a lot of responsibility on the student to manage their time effectively while completing all assignments with exceptional quality.

As this is a college level course, much of the preparation work must take place prior to class so that students are prepared to discuss topics upon entering the room. All readings are mandatory. Students that do not sufficiently prepare will find it harder to participate in class and perform well on assessments and projects.

Please note again that the AP Examination is created by the College Board and not specifically based on one textbook. Students must engage in outside study and research to prepare for the AP Exam. Tutorial and Review session opportunities will be available. It is the student's responsibility to research on their College choices regarding information about college credit policies concerning AP courses. Please see your instructor and High School Counselor for assistance. Your instructor and counselor are here to guide you on how to begin your college and career searches.

Students will be challenged and engaged in AP Human Geography. The course encourages them to become life-long learners. If at any time you or the student has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I am excited to have opportunity to work with your daughter or son this year in our Excalibur Program. In order to make success more likely for everyone involved, effective communication is important. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions at any time during the academic school year. Please keep the syllabus for reference purposes. All of my contact information can be found on the first page of the syllabus. Email is the easiest way to get in contact with me. Please keep it for reference!

Sincerely,

Michelle Albahae - AP Human Geography – Monarch High School
Email: michelle.albahae@browardschools.com
<http://monarchaphuman.wordpress.com>

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE AND RETURN TO MS. ALBAHAE NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21, 2014

I have read the "Course Overview & Syllabus" and I am aware of the responsibilities, expectations, and rules for Advanced Placement Human Geography

I also understand that more detailed and additional information will be available on the website concerning this course.

I understand that late work will not be accepted, homework is to be expected every night, and time management is key success in this course

I agree to sign up for the class blog by Wednesday August 21, 2014

Parent/ Guardian Name

Parent/ Guardian Signature

Daytime Phone Number

E-Mail Address

Preferred Method of Contact?

Phone

E-Mail

Student Name (PRINT)

Student Signature