AP Human Geography Course Description/Guidelines

**Purpose:**

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. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

**Course Goals:**

* Use and think about maps and spatial data
* Understand and interpret the implications of associations among phenomena
* Recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes
* Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process
* Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places
* Gain college level credit and experience ***(Exam date: Tuesday May 13th)***

**Organization of the Course:**

AP Human Geography will be presented in alignment with the course description published by College Board. Each topic will be a unit of study and will include a variety of student assessments such as free response, multiple choice tests, quizzes, and a unit project or activity designed to reinforce a major topic from the unit. Additional activities and assignments may include lecture notes, mapping activities, online assignments in the computer lab, group activities, case studies, and videos. Students are asked nearly every day to examine maps and graphed or textual information and respond to it using such concepts as scale, region, location, and place, or association and interconnection.

Areas of focus will include the following (% represent multiple choice coverage on the AP Exam):

1. Geography: Its Nature and Perspective (5-10%)

2. Population (13-17%)

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

4. Political Organization of Space (13-17%)

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

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

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

**Course Expectations:**

* Only students who are **highly motivated** and have a strong desire to learn should enroll.
* **Attendance** is essential. There is a direct correlation between the percent of students who pass the AP test and those who attend class regularly.
* Students will complete **quality work** on time.
* Students must and will maintain acceptable **citizenship** of “H” or “S.”

**Grading Procedures:**

Students will be assessed on performance in several areas including assignments, tests/quizzes, projects and participation/class work. Here is an approximate break down.

*Assignments (Notebook)* 40%

*Tests/Quizzes* 50%

*Participation/Projects* 10%

**Recommended Resources:**

* It is strongly recommended (but not required) that you buy an AP Human Geography Test Prep book to assist in your preparation for the test. There are many found in local bookstores and online. Read reviews before purchasing. *This is usually more necessary about halfway through the year when we start prepping for the final exam.*
* A personal atlas may be beneficial for students to use as reference, we will have atlas resources at school but these are not always guaranteed to be available for check out. There are many online digital resources available as well.
* Textbook Website: (Students will register in class and have access at home)

<http://www.masteringgeography.com/site/login.html>

* Information about the AP Test and Sample Questions: (Review this site for valuable information on the exam itself, preparation, etc.)

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_humangeo.html>

I have read the course description and syllabus (handed out to students last year, also on class website). I have also visited the College Board website (link above) and reviewed the full course description, services for students with disabilities (if necessary), and calendar and fees page.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principle Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***(Return this to school where it will be added to your class notebook and checked off.)***