

DARNELL-COOKMAN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL of the MEDICAL ARTS

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY – CURRICULUM PAPER

Mr. James Percy

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

AP Human Geography is an introductory college level course that is given to secondary school students who wish to obtain studies for the course during their high school years. This is a yearlong 1-credit course that focuses on the effects of human population on the planet. The units covered in this unit are as follows: Introduction to Geography, Population, Cultural, Political, Physical, and Economic Geography, and Urbanization.

OBJECTIVES:

- Use and think about maps and spatial data
- Understand and think about implications of association among phenomena in places
- Recognize and interpret at different scales the relationship among patterns and process
- Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process
- Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places

UNITS OF STUDY:

Unit	Multiple Choice Coverage on Exam	Pacing Guide
FIRST SEMESTER		19 Weeks
I. Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives	5 – 10%	4 Weeks
II. Population	13 – 17 %	4.5 Weeks
III. Cultural Patterns and Process	13 – 17%	6 Weeks
IV. Political Organization of Space	13 – 17%	4.5 Weeks
SECOND SEMSTER		12 Weeks
V. Agricultural and Rural Land Use	13 – 17%	3.5 Weeks
VI Industrialization and Economic Development	13 – 17%	5 Weeks
VII. Cities and Urban Land Use	13 – 17%	3.5 Weeks

AP EXAM:

The AP Human Geography Exam will be **May 13, 2011**. According to the College Board the exam is approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes long. It includes both a 60 minute multiple choice section and a 75 minute free response writing section. Each section counts for half of your exam grade. Strategies for how to study for the exam and take the exam will be devised later throughout the course. The exam will address the seven units of study, each given 13-17% attention on the exam with the exception of Unit One which comprises of 5-10% of the exam.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Students are evaluated using a standard-based approach. This includes forms of assessment such as multiple choice tests, writing tasks, assignment rubrics, and alternative performance tasks and other projects. Performance is measured based on a set of criteria that is provided to students at the start of an assignment. A student's overall grade is based on their performance in four critical areas.

Assignments/Activities
Assessments
Writings
Notes and Vocabulary
Research Project (Ongoing Yearlong)

GRADING SCALE:

Exceeds Standards	90 – 100%	A		
Meets Standards	80 – 89%	B	70 – 79 %	C
Approaching Standards	60 – 69%	D		
Below Standards	0 – 59%	F		

UNIT EXAMS:

There will be an exam given at the culmination of each unit. Some units are longer than others such as the cultural unit and will therefore need to be broken down into sub-categories to make teaching and learning more manageable. Consequently, these units may have more than one unit exam. Students scoring below a 70% on any unit assessment will be assigned a remediation task to ensure students meet that unit's standards.

HOMEWORK / LATE WORK PROCEDURES:

The majority of homework consists of note-taking. Students are expected to read and take notes from their next nightly (following the A/B schedule). Other homework assignments, such as a short reading or writing task, may also be assigned once or twice a week. Projects requiring the dedication of time at home can also be expected in any advanced course such as AP Human Geography. For assignments submitted after the due date, a deduction of one letter grade will be made for each day the assignment is late. Major projects will have a due date published well in advance. Students should plan ahead to ensure such projects are submitted on or before the due date so they may earn full credit for their effort. **To guarantee the integrity of the academic process, late assignments will not be accepted AFTER a particular assignment has been graded and returned to students.**

MAKE-UP WORK PROCEDURES:

It is the responsibility of any student who has been absent from class to request make-up work from the teacher the following school day. Students have one day to complete each missed day's worth of work for full credit. Afterwards, such assignments will be considered late. An online website is available for students and parents to access assignments and important due dates. Information and procedures will be provided at that time.

AP NOTEBOOK AND BINDER:

AP Human Geography students are required to keep a notebook and binder dedicated solely to Human Geography. Both the notebook and binder will serve as an ongoing collection of student work completed in class and out of class. These resources will also be a key study tool for the AP Exam and should not be discarded until the completion of the school year.

REQUIRED READINGS:

As an AP course, Human Geography will require more reading, writing, and independent study on the part of the student than the typical high school honors course. Required readings may be presented to the student in the form of newspaper articles, packets provided by the classroom teacher, historical documents, or various other sources including those suggested at the end of each chapter in your textbook.

MATERIALS:

As an introductory college course, preparation is paramount for a successful school year and a passing grade in AP Human Geography. Students are expected and required to bring class-related materials to class each class period. Materials include the following:

- Textbook – *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture* by H.J de Blij et al.
- Spiral Notebook (Interactive Notebook)
- 3 Ring binder – minimum 1 ½ “
- College Rule loose leaf paper
- Colored pencils, highlighter(s)

TUTORING INFORMATION:

After school tutoring is available from 2:45 to 5:15 on Mondays. Tutoring is open to both those students assigned to remediation and those voluntarily seeking assistance with their course work. Additionally, as the AP exam approaches in May, voluntary after school and Saturday AP prep sessions will be provided. Information regarding dates and times will be made available prior to the start of these sessions. **Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of ALL tutoring and remediation opportunities.**

PARENT CONFERENCES:

Conferences can be arranged by contacting the school's Guidance Department at 630-6800. Generally, I am available most days after school on Mondays through Thursdays.

SUPPORT AT HOME:

There are a number of steps that can be taken at home to ensure a successful experience in AP Human Geography. Students should spend 30 minutes per night reviewing that day's material or preparing for the next day's lessons. Students should have access to a newspaper or other news source, either online or at home, and an atlas, preferably in print format, but online or digital format will suffice. Finally, students and parents should regularly discuss the successes and challenges of the course.