

Advance Placement Human Geography at Pine Creek High School

What will students learn in AP Human Geography?

The AP Human Geography course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. The course introduces 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 socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012). *Reprinted from the College Board AP Human Geography Course Description, Fall 2015*

At what grade level is AP Human Geography taught?

Currently, students in grades 9 through 12 take AP Human Geography; this course is one more commonly taught to freshmen due to the traditional placement of Geography at the freshman level. Younger students can do very well on the exam with sufficient preparation and effort.

What are the specific topics that are covered in the AP Human Geography course?

Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives

In this topic, key geographic concepts are first introduced including location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization. Students learn how to use and interpret maps and to understand the role of mental mapping.

Population

This topic explores how the human population is organized geographically and helps students make sense of cultural, political, economic, and urban systems.

Cultural Patterns and Processes

This topic explores the components and regional variations of cultural patterns and processes that are critical to human geography. Students will learn how geographers assess the spatial and place dimensions of cultural groups as defined by language, religion, race, ethnicity, and gender, in the present as well as the past.

Political Organization of Space

This section of the course introduces students to the nature and significance of the political organization of territory at different scales. Students learn that political patterns reflect ideas about how Earth's surface should be organized and affect a wide range of activities and understandings.

Agriculture and Rural Land Use

This topic explores four themes: the origin and spread of agriculture; the characteristics of the world's agricultural regions; reasons why these regions function the way they do; and the impact of agricultural change on the quality of life and the environment.

Industrialization and Economic Development

In this topic, students learn about the geographic elements of industrialization and development and the spatial character of economic activity influenced by the interaction of several factors, including natural resources, culture, politics, and history in specific places.

Cities and Urban Land Use

This topic explores systems of cities, focusing on where cities are located and why they are there, as well as the political, economic, and cultural functions of cities, and other urban issues.

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