

# AP Human Geography Syllabus

---

## Instructor and Course Information

Ms. Melissa Williams

Room N152

williamsmk@pearlandisd.org

<https://www.pearlandisd.org/Domain/1339>

Tutorials: Oiler Hour – B shift: Mon, Tues, Wed

After-school – Wednesdays or by appointment

Conference: 3<sup>rd</sup> period

Supplies: One (1) Five Subject Spiral Notebook

Blue and/or black pens (for FRQs & writing assignments)

Pencil (for multiple choice tests)

Composition Book

Highlighters: pink, yellow, green

This course is a survey of global patterns with emphasis placed upon the factors contributing to these patterns and distinctions. This AP course in Human Geography will 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.

AP Human Geography is a rigorous, fast paced and challenging course designed to be the equivalent of a college level human geography course. Students should possess strong reading and writing skills or be willing to work hard to improve these skills and devote adequate time to study and complete class reading assignments. Emphasis is placed on thinking critically by synthesizing a variety of perspectives and information from various sources, analyzing various forms of data, critical reading, analytical writing and logical argument skills. This course prepares students to take the College Board Advanced Placement Human Geography examination and possibly receive college credit.

Any AP class requires hard work and a commitment to intellectual growth. All students are strongly encouraged to dedicate themselves to the goals of AP Human Geography and to take the AP Exam at the end of the school year. I hope that you will be rewarded with a sense of accomplishment and the belief that even a rigorous class can be enjoyable.

## Grading

Nine Weeks and Semester grades will be determined as follows:

### ❖ **Major Grades – 60%**

- Multiple choice/Free Response Question tests will be given at the end of each unit; they will be **cumulative** (i.e., information from previous units will be on all tests) and **inclusive** (i.e., it will include information from lectures, the textbook and class activities). There will be a minimum of 4 major grades per nine weeks; tests will be modeled after the AP Exam. Each unit test will contain Multiple Choice Questions and/or writing samples.

### ❖ **Quizzes – 40% Daily Grade/Weighted as Two Daily Grades**

- Map, Vocabulary, and/or reading quizzes will be given within each chapter, and will be over terms, models, theories, and important people and places from the current unit.
- Other pop-quizzes will be given periodically - either announced or unannounced - to evaluate the students' knowledge of the material on a day-to-day basis.
- Writing samples (FRQs) may be counted as a quiz grade or test grade and will be modeled after the AP Exam.

### ❖ **Daily/Homework – Part of the Daily Grade**

- Read all assigned sections and outside readings when they are due! Check the classroom display and teacher website often to keep up with all reading assignments. Your ability to keep up with the material and readings will help facilitate class discussions and learning.

- A variety of oral, written, group and individual assignments will be given (e.g., section notes, written assignments, participation in seminars and debates, etc.). Check the calendar often.

Grade Scale

100 – 90:	A
89 – 80:	B
79 – 75:	C
74 – 70:	D
Below 70:	F

Accountability and Independent Learning

You are responsible for reading and studying the textbook *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography* (as well as ALL other readings). **Refer often to the calendar located on the teacher’s website** (you will also be given a hard copy of the calendar). While some of the textbook will be discussed in detail through our class discussions, seminars, and debates, some of it will be covered through independent learning. You are responsible for **ALL material assigned**, whether we discussed it in class or not.

The AP Human Geography Exam

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Timing	Percentage of Total Exam Score
I	<p>Multiple Choice Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Skills categories are assessed in the multiple-choice section of the test.</li> <li>➤ Multiple-choice questions will include both individual and set-based questions.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 30-40% of the multiple-choice questions will reference stimulus material, including maps, tables, charts, graphs, images, infographics, and/or landscapes, roughly evenly divided between quantitative and qualitative sources.</li> </ul>	60 Questions	60 minutes	50%
II	<p>Free-Response Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Skills categories are assessed in the free-response section of the test.</li> <li>➤ Each free-response question presents students with an authentic geographic situation or scenario and assesses students’ ability to describe, explain, and apply geographic concepts, processes, or models, as they analyze geographic patterns, relationships, and outcomes in applied contexts.</li> <li>➤ At least two of the three free-response questions assess students’ ability to analyze across geographic scales to explain spatial relationships.</li> </ul>	3 Questions	75 minutes	50%

## General Information

<b>Attendance</b>	If you must miss class, check the teacher's website and calendar as well as your nine weeks calendar and Skyward for assignments. All make-up assignments are due within a week of the original due date.
<b>Calendar</b>	There is a calendar on the teacher's website and a calendar will be given each nine weeks to help you keep up with assignments.
<b>Assignments</b>	All the assignments will be posted on the teacher's calendar.
<b>Late and Make-Up Work</b>	The late work policy follows that of other AP Social Studies classes: 1 day late: highest grade = 70% 2 days late: highest grade = 50% 3 days late: 0 Make-up work is due within a week of the original due date. For example, if you are absent on a Monday and work is assigned and due Tuesday, you have until the following Tuesday to turn in the work. This does not apply to the reading assignments and other activities that are given more than 24 hours notice. If you are absent when something is due, you are expected to turn the assignment in immediately upon returning to class or the late policy will apply.
<b>Readings</b>	Each student will be assigned a course textbook for the school year. All outside readings will be on display in the classroom and on the teacher's website. Keep up with your reading!
<b>Final Exam (Fall Semester)</b>	It's comprehensive and AP style. The semester exam covers all the material from the beginning of the semester. It is imperative that you don't just study to pass the unit tests but focus on preparing for the spring AP exam. The Spring Semester Final exam can be exempted by signing up and taking the AP exam (based on meeting exemption requirements).
<b>Tardies</b>	You are expected to be in class on time; failure to be <u>in your seat</u> when the tardy bell rings will result in you being counted tardy. If you walk into class after the tardy bell, you must have a tardy slip with you or you will be counted tardy.
<b>B.Y.O.D.</b>	Students are expected to put their device(s) in the bags attached to their desk at the start of class. Refusal to store a device(s) in the bag and using the device during class will result in having the device(s) taken up and not returned until the bell rings.
<b>Honor Code</b>	See student handbook for complete explanation.