Advanced Placement Human Geography

Mr. Adams: ajadams3@cps.edu

Questions/Extra Help? Before and after school - Room: 427 before and 316 after, unless making copies. When swim season roles around in November please email in advance to schedule a time.

Website: adamsapgeo.weebly.com

Overview: The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use and alteration of the Earth’s surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human economic and social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

Website and Required Contact Information Form: I have created a website (see address above) for my classes. Please refer to this website for assignment and assessment dates, announcements and support materials such as powerpoints and resource materials, etc. In addition, there will be useful links to enrichment materials and other sites that will help you with your studies here at Lane.

Rules & Expectations: Not following these guidelines will result in a reduction in your grade. Every student will start each quarter with a 100% participation grade, any violation of the rules below will result in a reduction in that grade:

2 point reductions:
- You are expected to be on time. This means you are inside the classroom when the bell rings.
- Be RESPECTFUL of others, do not talk while someone else is speaking, raise your hand and wait to be called on, no insults, and remember everyone’s opinions are equally valid. Vulgar and/or inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
- Do not have your cell phone out in classroom without permission, even during passing periods. I don’t want to see your cell phones! If you need or want to use your cell phone during passing periods stay in the hallway but make sure you are on time.
- Excessive bathroom requests. Students are expected to take care of their bathroom needs during passing periods, lunch or before school. Each student will be allowed two bathroom passes per quarter when students, in general, are allowed passes. After that each request to use the bathroom will result in a reduction in your grade.
- Everyone will participate in discussions, presentations, and in-class assignments (point reductions can vary)

1 point reductions:
- You should be wearing your ID on a lanyard around your neck.
- You should have all required materials including your textbook (when required), notebook, writing utensil and any homework that is due.
- Class time runs from bell to bell, do not pack-up or line-up before class is over.
- No food or drinks in class (except water). You will be required to dispose of any food or drink you bring into the classroom.
- All other school rules will be followed regarding dress code and electronics, etc.

Course Structure: A detailed schedule of assigned readings, homework assignments and exam dates will be provided periodically and will be posted electronically on my website. These schedules are tentative given that some classes may be interrupted for things beyond our control (fire alarms, etc.) Each assignment is worth a predetermined number of points. Points will be earned in the following categories and weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Exams (multiple choice and free response formats)</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (homework, in-class assignments/activities, note quizzes)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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Unit Exams: There will be several unit exams throughout the course and which will cover all lectures, readings and assignments to date. They are designed to make sure you have mastered the material and will be in both written and multiple choice format. **If you know you are going to be absent, you should be prepared to take the exam outside of class, ahead of time if necessary or on the day you return to school.**

Assignments: If you don’t complete the readings and other homework you will not be successful on the AP exam. I expect you to understand the concepts that are covered in this class. You need to use vocabulary from the text and notes in your
Homework answers and your answers should demonstrate understanding by citing relevant material from the text and class lecture/discussions. Your written answers should be in complete sentence form and grammatically correct. Being able to communicate your ideas effectively in written and verbal form will be one of the most useful tools you can learn here at Lane Tech in order to be successful in college and your future career.

Homework assignment due dates will be announced and posted by me. Late assignments will receive the following grade reductions: ½ credit for submitting the assignment one day late, after that you will receive no credit for the assignment. Assignments collected during an absence MUST be submitted on the day the student returns to class. If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to get any assignments you missed. If there is any confusion about an assignment, see me before or after school.

Map Quizzes: Periodically throughout the school year you will be quizzed on the location of countries, states and major metropolitan areas (cities). You will be notified well in advance of when those quizzes will occur. We will not be spending time in class on this somewhat rudimentary concept. There are several map quiz websites found under “Study Tools” on my website that you can use in order to study for the map quizzes.

Note Quizzes: Your most consistent homework will be to read and take notes from the text. These assignments are designed to introduce students to concepts that will be discussed in class. For the first unit calendar, I have included days when you will have open-note quizzes (5 - 10 minutes at the beginning of the period) which could cover the previous nights' homework. I will be discussing note-taking strategies, but it is important that you develop a style that works best for you and balances being too general and too specific. The best advice I can give you is to read the section before taking notes and then include in your notes the main ideas, important examples (superlatives, biggest, smallest, most, least, best, worst) and any relevant vocabulary terms.

Grading Scale: A = 90 – 100   B = 80 – 89   C = 70 – 79   D = 60 – 69   F = Below 60

All grades will be posted online through Gradebook to allow students and parents the opportunity to check current grades.

Academic Integrity: Copying another student’s work or plagiarizing from another source is a form of cheating and is unacceptable. If a student is caught copying or plagiarizing they will receive an automatic zero on the assignment, a parent will be contacted and disciplinary action may be taken. Any repeat violations of this policy could result in the student not receiving AP credit for the course. All larger paper assignments must be submitted through turn-it-in.com.

Attendance: It is essential that you are in class every day and participating. As part of the Lane Tech attendance policy with the 6th class absence (whether excused or not) a student’s overall grade will be dropped one letter grade. Exceptions to this, which should be cleared through the attendance office, are serious illnesses accompanied by a doctor’s note and religious holidays.

Extra Credit: I do not offer extra credit. The purpose of this course is for you to understand the material and therefore if you want to earn the grade you desire, you must work consistently to that level.

Materials: Come prepared to class every day. Coming unprepared slows down class and distracts other students. Unless specifically instructed otherwise, students should come to class everyday with:

- **Textbook:** Students should have received a copy of Human Geography: People, Place and Culture. Please let me know if you didn’t or if there is a problem with your book.
- **Spiral Notebook:** Class notes, outlines and in-class writing assignments are all to be done in your AP Human Geography notebook. Your name should be place prominently on the notebook to verify it is yours and not a classmate’s. This notebook should be used to review/study for assessments.
- **Three-ring binder:** Throughout the semester you will receive reference materials, charts, maps and returned quizzes and assignments. You are expected to hold on to all assignments and worksheets until the end of the year. This binder is for AP Human Geography assignments only. My assignments will be three-hole punched in order to be kept neatly in a binder. Also reference these assignments to study for exams.
  - **Dividers:** It will also be helpful to have dividers, or multiple folders, in your binder. I can’t stress how important organization is.
- **Pen or pencil:** It is the responsibility of the student to bring a writing utensil to class every day.
- **Colored pencils:** In addition, please buy the cheapest set of colored pencils available. Occasionally we will be using them for map and graphing activities. At a minimum, the set should include a red, blue, green and yellow pencil.

I look forward to being your instructor this year!!! I know that if we work together that you can be very successful on the AP exam and have a rewarding experience in this class.