

# *AP Human Geography Summer 2020*

*Ms. Vestal - Sanderson High School*

Welcome to AP Human Geography (AP HuG)! This course will require you to learn content and skills from many different disciplines including (but not limited to): geography, psychology, sociology, biology, statistics, and history. Because of this, you will be building and practicing skills over the summer required of you for the first unit rather than a generalized overview of the class (that's too much). Unit 1 of AP HuG (Geography: Its Nature and Perspective) will give you foundational knowledge that will be applicable throughout the course. Please contact me through email ([cvestal@wcpss.net](mailto:cvestal@wcpss.net)) with any and all questions.

## *What even is AP Human Geography?*

If you're curious about the specific skills and content covered in the class, please visit the official College Board site for AP Human Geography (linked below). I've attached a screenshot of the introduction provided by College Board to give you an overview of this course "at-a-glance".

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-human-geography/course>

# Introduction

---

AP Human Geography introduces high school students to college-level introductory human geography or cultural geography. The content is presented thematically rather than regionally and is organized around the discipline's main subfields: economic geography, cultural geography, political geography, and urban geography. The approach is spatial and problem oriented. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today. Historical information serves to enrich analysis of the impacts of phenomena such as globalization, colonialism, and human-environment relationships on places, regions, cultural landscapes, and patterns of interaction.

Specific topics with which students engage include the following:

- problems of economic development and cultural change
- consequences of population growth, changing fertility rates, and international migration
- impacts of technological innovation on transportation, communication, industrialization, and other aspects of human life

- struggles over political power and control of territory
- conflicts over the demands of ethnic minorities, the role of women in society, and the inequalities between developed and developing economies
- explanations of why location matters to agricultural land use, industrial development, and urban problems
- the role of climate change and environmental abuses in shaping the human landscapes on Earth

The goal for the course is for students to become more geoliterate, more engaged in contemporary global issues, and more informed about multicultural viewpoints. They will develop skills in approaching problems geographically, using maps and geospatial technologies, thinking critically about texts and graphic images, interpreting cultural landscapes, and applying geographic concepts such as scale, region, diffusion, interdependence, and spatial interaction, among others. Students will see geography as a discipline relevant to the world in which they live; as a source of ideas for identifying, clarifying, and solving problems at various scales; and as a key component of building global citizenship and environmental stewardship.

## ***Activity #1 - MAPS!***

MAPS! Unit 1 of AP HuG focuses largely on maps (and maps are central to the class overall). You might be wondering, how can an entire unit focus on maps?? Below is an encyclopedic entry on maps. Become ***familiar\**** with this information regarding maps by reading the encyclopedic entry and studying the vocabulary terms included with the entry.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/map/12th-grade/>

## ***Activity #2 - Geographic Knowledge***

MORE MAPS! Maps are paramount in AP HuG. Unfortunately geographic knowledge has dwindled in recent years, so you all will fortify your geographic knowledge using the site below. Become ***familiar\**** with the following maps:

- ★ Top 30 Countries by Population
- ★ World Rivers
- ★ World Mountain Ranges
- ★ World Deserts

You can access these maps by clicking the link below then hovering over the “World” tab.

<https://lizardpoint.com/geography/>

***\*I’m actively avoiding the term “memorize” because the point of these activities is not for you to reiterate names of things to me when we begin class. I use the phrase “become familiar with” because these are the building blocks of this class and your comprehension of them will make your time in class easier and more productive – leading to more knowledge gained in class and a greater potential for a higher score on the AP Exam.***