**Advanced Placement Human Geography Syllabus/Class Expectations 2023 - 2024**

**Mr. Stepek:** [pestepek@cps.edu](mailto:pestepek@cps.edu) (this is the BEST way to contact me!)

**Questions?/Extra Help?** I am available before school from 7:00 – 7:55 am and after school by appointment from 3:20 – 4:15 pm (Wednesday 3 – 4 pm) and during the correction window. I am NOT available Friday after school

**Website**: <http://stepekaphumangeography.weebly.com/>

**Google Classroom:** Please enter google classroom by opening your CPS email and clicking on the waffle (dotted grid) in the upper right corner, then hit classroom. Make sure you are in the CPS server and not your general google/gmail server. You can check this by clicking on the circle with your initial in it.

Below are the join codes for my sections. You should already be enrolled in Google Classroom and we will work together to get you signed up for AP Classroom.

Class codes: AP Classroom

**1st 6DE6DD**

**2nd  9WXYV9**

**5th GQMXLN**

**7th  YYWXZV**

**8th  ZPME7D**

The classroom meet link for remote learning is found in the Google Classroom banner in case we need to go remote in the future

**Overview:** The purpose of the Advanced Placement (AP) course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the economic, cultural and political patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use and interaction with the Earth. Students employ spatial concepts and analysis to examine human economic and social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use. In May, students will sit for an AP exam given nationally. By passing the AP exam students may earn college credit.

**Rules & Expectations:**

* You are expected to be on time. This means you are inside the classroom when the bell rings. **You will NOT be able to make up work or assessments for UNEXCUSED ABSENCES (cuts).** You will not get an extension of time to take quizzes given at the beginning of the period if you are tardy.
* You should be wearing your ID on a lanyard around your neck.
* **Your cell phone should not be out in the classroom without permission, even during passing periods.**  **I DO NOT WANT TO SEE YOUR CELL PHONES!** If you need or want to use your phone during passing periods stay in the hall and use it then put it away **(not visible to me)** before entering the classroom and make sure you are still on time to class. Anytime you leave the room (bathroom etc.) you must leave your cell phone in the classroom.
* Class time runs from bell to bell, do not pack-up or become distracted before class is over.
* No food or drinks in class (except water and a light snack). You will be required to dispose of any food or drink you bring into the classroom. See me privately if you have special needs or an inconvenient lunch period
* Be **RESPECTFUL** of others, do not talk while someone else is speaking, no insults, and remember everyone’s opinions are equally valid! Vulgar, discriminatory and/or inappropriate language or behavior will not be tolerated and will be addressed immediately.

**Teacher autonomy:** At Lane, we believe that each teacher should teach using the skills and knowledge that best fits their personality and teaching style. Consequently, not all assignments, exam questions, point values, extra-credit etc. will be the same for every APHG teacher. Through extensive collaboration, we have standardized the content and skills we expect students to master for each unit but there will be some variation between teachers about how that content is taught and assessed.

**Course Structure:** A detailed schedule of assigned readings, homework assignments and exam dates will be provided periodically and will be posted on google classroom. Points will be earned in the following categories and weighted as follows:

Unit Exams (multiple choice and free response/written formats, weighted final cumulative exam 2nd semester) 45%

Assignments (homework, in-class activities and class competitions, etc.) 25%

Reading/Guided Reading Checks 20%

Map Quizzes 10%

**Reading/Guided Reading Checks:** On the unit calendar you will see a column with your nightly assignment. This could include completion of in-class work or other assignments but will most regularly be reading from the textbook(s). These will correspond to guided reading notes which have been completed and posted (a blank copy of the guided reading will also be provided for students who find completing it individually helpful.) The material covered by these readings is what we will be discussing in class and therefore it is very helpful for student comprehension to have done the reading ahead of time. There will be short reading checks which verify whether you are completing the textbook readings/enrichment articles as scheduled. If you have an excused absence you may make-up reading checks outside of class. If you are allowed extra time, you should come in before school (@7:40 am) on the day of the reading check to get extra time. **But there will no opportunity to retake these guided reading checks because of a low grade. The teacher MAY choose to “drop” one or more reading checks at the end of each semester.**

**Unit Exams (major summative):** There will be unit exams throughout the course which will cover all lectures, readings and assignments to date, the exam may reference information from previous units (learning in this class is cumulative). The exams are designed to make sure you have mastered the material and will test you in both written and multiple-choice formats.

**Retake/recovery policy:** Please see the APHG retake/recovery policy posted under the study tools tab on my website**.**

**Assignments:** Completing the readings and other homework is essential for success. You should incorporate vocabulary from the text, guided readings and notes into 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, identifying pronouns and your answers should be grammatically correct.** Being able to communicate your ideas effectively in written and verbal form will be one of the most useful tools you learn here at Lane Tech and will help you to be successful in college and your future career.

Homework due dates will be announced and posted on the unit calendars. Assignments collected during an absence MUST be submitted on the day the student returns to class and will only be accepted IF the absence is excused (an EMAIL from a parent or an excused absence in Aspen). If there is any confusion about an assignment, please email me or come see me during office hours BEFORE the due date.

**Retake/recovery policy:** Late work will receive ½ credit up until the work is graded and returned to other students, reviewed, a key is posted for self-assessment. In most cases after that student cannot makeup assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted once the unit assessment has been given.

**Textbooks:** The textbooks we use for this class are:

* *The Cultural Landscape* 13th edition by James M. Rubenstein (you will receive a hard copy on the first day of class). I will post an electronic copy of the relevant chapter on my website. It can be found under the textbook tab. **The password is….textbook.**
* *Human Geography: People, Place and Culture* 10th edition by de Blij etal ISBN-13: 978-1-118-01869-9 (this is a supplemental text. Hard copies are available in the classroom and I will also post an electronic copy of relevant chapters on my website)

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

All grades will be posted online through Aspen to allow students and parents the opportunity to check current grades. Assignments not submitted by students on time will be entered as a “missing” grade until they are submitted. Missing grades count as a zero until they have been replaced by late or make-up credit. A blank space in gradebook means the assignment has not yet been assigned and/or graded. Blanks have no effect in your grade.

**The APHG team has not adopted a grading floor as we feel our FRQ curve, recovery/retake and late work policy encourages student responsibility and mastery of the AP curriculum.**

**Academic Integrity:** There is no leniency for copying another student’s work or plagiarizing from another source. If a student is caught cheating, copying or plagiarizing they will receive an automatic zero on the assignment with no opportunity for point recovery, a parent will be contacted immediately, and disciplinary action may be taken. Any repeat violations of this policy could result in the student not receiving a passing grade for the course. Academic dishonesty includes using an unauthorized electronic device during a quiz or exam, consulting with other students on individual work, and the use of any and all artificial intelligence tools (i.e. ChatGPT or DALL-E) or essay writing services (i.e. Chegg or Course Hero) to create student assignments. If I ask you to explain your work or your work process and you are unable to do so, I will have to assume that the work is not your own and/or artificially created. Cheating will result in a 0% and no opportunity for point recovery.

**Attendance:** It is essential that you are in class every day and participating! It is Lane’s policy that when a student is absent that their parents email the teacher for their absence and request what assignments were missed.

* Excused: If there is a valid excuse for why you missed class, I will set a new deadline for you on the assignments that you missed. There are no penalties for legitimate absences.
* Unexcused (cut): If there is no valid excuse for why you missed class, assignments will not be allowed to be made up.

**Materials:** Please come prepared to class every day. Coming unprepared slows down the class and distracts other students. Therefore, students should come to class everyday with the following items in hand:

* **CPS-issued chromebook:** Please bring your CPS-issued laptop **fully-charged** to class EVERYDAY. Save your electronic work to your google drive folder provided by CPS. You should “star” this for easy access. In that folder create a subfolder for AP Human Geo.
* **Three ring binder**: You should have one specifically dedicated to this class to organize handouts and other class materials.
* **Notebook**: This notebook will specifically be used for class notes, outlines, and in-class writing assignments. Your name should be placed on the notebook to verify it is yours and not a classmate’s. Notes should be used to review/study for assessments.
* **Pen or pencil**: This will be helpful in taking notes during some short discussions/lectures we will have throughout the course of the year.
* **Colored pencils**: a small set (4 – 8 variety pack) of colored pencils to be used for map work etc. This will save us time.

**What if?** Please keep in mind that although I have high expectations for you, I am not unreasonable. Most of the time a TIMELY email with an explanation will suffice. Don’t wait several days to reach out to me.

* If you lose internet access. Use your phone to email me and explain. **All “excuse” emails should also have your parents copied.**
* If Mr. Stepek is absent?....Stay put, a sub may be on the way to take attendance.
  + While you are waiting refer to the unit calendar and access materials from my website or Google Classroom (notes, video links, homework to keep engaged). Do the next scheduled textbook reading unless you have been informed of another activity.

**I look forward to being your teacher this year!!! Do not hesitate to contact me if you require help.**