COURSE SYLLABUS

Boca Ciega High School
Building 1, Room 64
Email: isaaca@pcsb.org

COURSE PURPOSE: The purpose of the Advanced Placement Course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of the spatial organization of human activity on earth. In other words, Human Geography is the study of where human activities take place on the Earth and why they take place there. This is known as the “why of where.” Just about everything from news stories to personal events have a geographical aspect simply because a sense of place provides a foundation for people’s identities and often drives their actions. Whether we’re studying migration patterns, urban crime, agriculture, or political conflicts, we will be studying geography.

Advanced placement students will learn to think geographically and ask critical geographical questions. They will be able to use and think about maps and spatial data sets, understand and interpret various phenomena in a variety of places, recognize and interpret at different scales the relationships among patterns and processes, define regions and evaluate regionalization processes, and characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places. They will also have a better understanding of the social, political, and economic processes that shape the world today, and ultimately influence their future world.

The aim of an AP course in Human Geography is to provide the student with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory human geography courses. This is a college-level content course. Please expect homework and studying each day to ensure success. The course is organized around seven core units:
- Geography: Its Nature and Perspectives
- Cities and Urban Land Use
- Political Organization of Space
- Industrialization and Economic Development
- Population and Migration
- Cultural Patterns and Processes
- Agricultural and Rural Land Use


SCHOOL AND CLASS RULES - PCSB, Boca Ciega High School, and class rules will be enforced. Please see the Student Code of Conduct, Pirate Pact, and class postings. Our way of work:

- Be in your seat, prepared with the proper tools, and ready to work when the bell rings.
- Be respectful of your colleagues and teachers and their personal property.
- Be a positive communicator - foul language or put-downs will not be tolerated.
- Be prepared- come each day with your assignments completed ready to give your best.
- Be a team member- work together as a team so everyone succeeds.
CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- **Materials:** Students are to bring assigned materials to class each day unless otherwise instructed.

- **Attendance and Missed Assignments:** Students are expected to attend class each day. It is your responsibility to obtain and make up the work that you missed on the day that you return. You have the number of days equal to the number of days absent to turn in any work assigned while you were absent. Any homework that was previously assigned and listed on the calendar is due on the day you return.

- **Assignments:** A calendar of assignments will be distributed and posted on the Boca Ciega lesson plan site at the beginning of each month. Please print the calendar for each month and place it in the front of your binder. Homework is due at the beginning of class so do not plan on finishing it in class. Late homework assignments will receive a zero except under special circumstances which requires a parent note or email. Students should take pride in their homework and use blue or black ink or pencil based on the assignment. Some assignments must be typed.

- **Quizzes and Tests:** There will be reading, vocabulary, and unannounced pop quizzes. Chapter/unit tests will be announced on the calendar and in class. Make up tests are given after school. You are required to make up a missed test on the first scheduled make-up day after missing the test. Students making below a “C” on a chapter or unit test are requested to come in after school or at lunch for additional support.

Many assignments will require a computer and internet access. We will work together to make sure that each student is able to complete necessary assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

Grades are calculated each nine weeks using a point system. The number of points may vary each nine weeks depending on the assignments, but the number of points create a weighted grading system with tests/quizzes making up about 65% of the grade. A sample of points and assignments may be found below:

- **Homework/Classwork Assignments** (10 - 20 points each)
- **Reading, Pop, Vocab Quizzes** (20 - 50 points each)
- **Chapter and Unit Tests** (150 - 200 points each)
- **Essays, Projects, Presentations** (25 - 50 points each)
- **Class Participation/Bell Work** (30 - 60 points per nine weeks)

90-100% (A), 80-89% (B), 70-79% (C), 60-69% (D), 0-59% (F)

**Exams** - All students take the 1st semester course exam and the College Board AP Exam in May.

**FINAL EXAM/AP EXAM** - Any student maintaining the exemption requirements may exempt the county course exam for Spring semester. All students are expected to take the College Board AP Human Geography Exam.

SUPPLIES

Each student will need the following items to successfully navigate this class:

- AP Human Geography Study Guide (see below)
- 2 Composition Books (no wire spirals, please)
- Boca Ciega required binder
- 2 highlighters
- Cornell note paper (can make copies or download from internet)
✓ Pens (blue or black)
✓ Colored pens- (any color other than blue or black for correcting or editing)
✓ Index cards
✓ Notebook paper
✓ Post-It Notes

It is strongly recommended that each student purchase one of the AP Human Geography Study Guides. These can be found locally at Barnes and Noble or I would suggest purchasing an older edition from Amazon.com or even Ebay at a greatly reduced price.

Purchase: AP Human Geography by Princeton Review Guide, or 5 Steps to a 5, or Kaplan, or Barron’s.

*A limited number of the study guides below are available for check-out through Boca Ciega for students unable to purchase one. Though several of these are available at school, they were published in 2008 which means they are not totally up to date.

AP Human Geography by Dr. Christian Sawyer