



AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY: THE COURSE

Geography in general is the study of where things are located on the Earth's surface and the reasons for the location. Geographers ask two main questions: where? and why? Where are people and activities located across Earth's surface? Why are they located in particular places? AP Human Geography seeks to answer these two questions as they relate to the contemporary world.

The AP Human Geography course at Lincoln High School is an introductory college course, which is generally given in most colleges in one semester. The aim of the AP Human Geography course is to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college-level introductory human geography courses. The Advanced Placement Program offers an annual human geography exam that all students are expected to take. College level credit often is given by universities and colleges for qualifying scores on this exam.

Human geography is currently one of the fastest-growing courses in the AP curriculum.

The main purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of human geography as a social science by emphasizing the relevance of geographic concepts to human problems. A central theme presented by the authors of *Human Geography; People, Place, and Culture*, the primary text in this course, is the tension between globalization and cultural diversity. The authors argue that after a period when globalization of the economy and culture has been a paramount concern in geographic analysis, local diversity now demands equal time.

The main topics include: (1) the basic concepts that geographers use; (2) where people are located in the world; (3) how different cultural groups are distributed; and (4) how people earn a living in different parts of the world. The course will be broken down to units of study that include: the basic geographical tools; population and health; migration; folk and popular culture; languages; religions; ethnicities; political geography (nation and state building); economic development; food and agriculture; industry and manufacturing; service and settlements; urban patterns; and globalization.

At the end of the year, students can expect to have an expanded and more detailed overview of globalization and its inherent short and long-term consequences. Additionally, students will have identified world needs and future trends, which should help them prepare for meaningful academic direction and possible career selection.

As this most probably will be one of the first Advanced Placement course in a student's life at Lincoln High School, it will facilitate a base and structure in study skills and preparation necessary for the advanced rigorous curriculum offered at Lincoln High School.

PERSONAL NOTE FROM MR. ZATORIS

As a teacher, I couldn't be more excited about the relevancy of this course and the opportunity to help students gain an expanded and more accurate global perspective of their world. Additionally, I place a high value on building a strong structural foundation for academic success and I look forward to this process.