

Advanced Placement Human Geography

Ramsey High School

2019 - 2020

Teacher Information	
Name: Mr. Daniel Willever	
Class Location: Room 212	Office Hours: - Monday – Thursday, before or after school by appointment. - Lunch block by appointment
Phone: 201-785-2300 ext. 21910	Learning Management System: Schoology
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COURSE OVERVIEW

AP Human Geography is a yearlong course that focuses on the “Why of Where?” -- essentially, the relationship between human populations and the physical environment at a local, regional, and global scale. The course is split into seven interrelated units of study, covering a wide range of topics: population demographics, migration, human culture, economic systems, political entities, and settlements. Emphasis is placed on patterns and processes across time and space through the application of geographic models and case studies. Students will need to learn and regularly utilize spatial thinking skills in order to be successful in the course. Completion of readings, activities, fieldwork, and research, will enable students to gain greater insight into the connections between people and the places that they live – and the effect that the two elements have on one another.

ORGANIZATION OF COURSE

This course is organized according to the Advanced Placement standards established by the College Board. The function of an Advanced Placement class is that students be challenged with a rigorous workload similar to that of an undergraduate college course (please refer to the attached course calendar for more info about content and pacing). In May, students may take the Advanced Placement exam for the possibility of earning college credit. Students may take the exam regardless class grades, and it will have zero effect on their grades. Not all higher education institutions accept AP credit, and the score threshold for a passing grade (i.e. 3 or 4) will vary by school. Students must take the AP exam to earn exemption from the final exam, in addition to four consecutive marking periods of at least a B- grade or higher.

While each unit will take a thematic approach to the study of human geography, students should work to make connections between multiple units of study. Every unit will consist of individual learning activities, lectures, collaborative assignments, at least one major project, and will culminate in a unit exam. Each exam will include multiple choice and free response questions that challenge students to draw upon their acquired knowledge and utilize skills related to the study of geography, such as spatial analysis.

All of the work assigned in this class has a purpose: skill-building, content acquisition, assessment of learning, or some combination thereof. When a student decides to not do the work, that not only affects their grade. It disrupts a progressive learning process towards achieving the course objectives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

While the immediate objectives of this class are to learn the spatial skills and knowledge associated with human geography, and succeed on the AP exam, those are not the only goals, nor are they the most valuable.

- To develop and employ the skills of geographers, including research, observation, spatial analysis mapping and modeling, data analysis, and technical writing.
- To develop an empathetic and outward perspective with which to view and understand current issues in our local, national, and global community.
- To think about complex relationships of cause and effect, as they exist among people, their environments, and historical and contemporary actions.
- To understand the significance of systems -- economic, political, social, or otherwise -- in the lives of people.
- Students are encouraged to establish their own goals related to personal improvement academic skills (e.g. research, analysis, writing, etc.), the Four Cs (Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication), or learning outcomes ("I want to know and understand more about this interest that I have."). Regular consultations with the teacher may assist with establishing realistic goals, benchmarks, and strategies for success.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook

Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. 11th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc., 2014.

Additional print and multimedia resources will be used regularly to supplement the textbook throughout the course.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Responsibilities

Students are responsible for class attendance, participation, completion of assignments, organization of course resources (both printed and digital), independent studying, and seeking extra help when needed or desired. I will address individual issues directly with students, as well as guidance counselors and parents, as appropriate.

Be supportive of others as they work towards the course objectives and any goals they have set for themselves, regardless of where they began and how much they have grown so far.

Whatever has happened, the next opportunity for success is always right now.

We are co-collaborators in this class. We all will be relying on each other's informed, honest, and active involvement in class discussions. I realize different people participate in conversation in different ways, and that for some students, speaking in public is difficult. If you have any concerns about this, come and see me so that together we can work out the best way for you to participate in the class.

Homework assignments will not be accepted late.

Extensions may be granted on an individual basis, but will not be granted without a personal conversation regarding the situation.

Extended Hours

As per page 1 of this syllabus, Mr. Willever has certain times reserved during the day to meet with students. When possible, please email or speak directly with Mr. Willever when you seek to take advantage of this extended time. This time may be utilized for extra help, make-up work (see below), and conversations related to course objectives.

Absences and Make-up Work/Examinations

When a student is absent, he/she should contact a peer or Mr. Willever as soon as possible to obtain the missed assignment and submit it in a timely manner. Any homework assignment posted on Schoology in advance will not be excused for an absence unless the student provides a note from his or her parent or the parent contacts me via email. Examinations must be made up within *one calendar week* of the day they were originally given, with exceptions for an excused absence for a significant period. When possible, students should give Mr. Willever advance notice of lengthy periods of absence, or send an email when out unexpectedly to keep up with work.

Supplies

It is recommended that students have a sturdy folder or three-ring binder to store and organize any handouts or physical resources distributed in class. They may also choose to convert any physical handouts to a digital format. It is essential that students come to class with a charged, functioning device (Chromebook, iPad, etc.) through which they can access course resources on Google Drive or Schoology. Lack of a functioning device is not an acceptable excuse for missing assignments or lack of class participation, and will result in a deduction of points from the student's grade.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

PLEASE NOTE THAT GRADE CATEGORIES ARE WEIGHTED IN THIS CLASS. THEREFORE, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO COMPLETE EVERY ASSIGNMENT. THE GRADING CATEGORIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Class Activities and Participation (20%): Individual and group assignments will be completed in class on a regular basis. Student participation is imperative to achieving success in the course. This grade may include work in class that is not collected and graded, such as participation in a discussion or collaboration with peers on an assignment.

Homework (25%): Homework will be assigned regularly. This includes but is not limited to readings, vocabulary, research, worksheets, etc. When homework is not assigned, it is recommended that students utilize some time to review their notes and vocabulary in preparation for a unit assessment or the AP exam.

Projects and Writing Assignments (20%): At least one project will be given per unit, as well as a long-term project for each of the first three marking periods. Formal writing assignments may be given periodically.

Quizzes (10%): Closed-notebook quizzes on various topics will be given on occasion to gauge student understandings between major assessments. Open-notebook vocab quizzes may also be assigned at least once per unit.

Tests (25%): A unit test will be given at the end of each unit 1 - 6. These tests will include 25 – 50 multiple choice questions and one or two free response questions (FRQs).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

- There is a zero tolerance policy for cheating on homework, tests, quizzes, and other class assignments. When assignments are to be completed individually, this includes any copying of work or sharing of files. Violations will result in loss of credit for the assignment and parental notification, as per RHS policy.
- When writing a paper, academic integrity is expected of all students. All sources must be cited in the proper format, which will be reviewed by the teacher – this includes verbatim text and summarized/paraphrased information that you utilized.
- If you are not sure about how to complete a particular assignment with integrity, or how to properly cite a source in a paper, it is your responsibility to contact the teacher for assistance.

SCHOOLGY

Schoology.com is the learning management system for Ramsey High School and will be utilized in this class. This will be the resource that enables you to access instructions for homework assignments and projects, online discussions, links to supplemental materials such as readings and videos, and some assessments. Because we will be utilizing Schoology so much, you will be required to have the Schoology App on your iPad. It is also recommended that you have it on a back-up device (such as a phone) in case your iPad malfunctions or lacks power.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Any viewing, sharing or transmission of digital material containing inappropriate content, offensive language, derogatory rumors/gossip, or other content not in keeping with Ramsey High School's mission or philosophy is strictly prohibited except as expressly authorized by Ramsey High School in connection with approved curricula and course materials. Any inappropriate technology uses will be reported to the school administration and the teacher reserves the right to confiscate the device if being misused.

CELL PHONES

We have adjusted our cell phone use norms and expectations for students to promote learning, conversation, enriched mental health, and a positive school climate. The standard practice for students will be to place cell phones in the cell phone holder posted in each classroom at the beginning of each time block and retrieved at the end of each time block. Students will be able to use their phones during Study Hall and Lunch. If a student is disrupting the educational environment with a cell phone or electronic device, it will be confiscated and taken to the office. Administration may review the content of a cell phone if pertinent information is suspected to be on the device in some capacity. Cellular phones may be carried by students while on field trips or other school sponsored events out of the school building either on or off of school grounds. These devices shall be utilized with discretion so as to not create a disturbance. Students will be able to use their phones during Study Hall and Lunch.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

When you turn in the signed acknowledgement (next page) to Mr. Willever you will receive credit for your first homework assignment. Your signature and the signature of your parent/guardian constitute your commitment to the course and to prepare for the AP Human Geography examination should you choose to take it.

AP Human Geography Course Syllabus Acknowledgement

I have read the course syllabus and attached pacing calendar. I am aware of the commitment required for a student to succeed in this Advanced Placement class. I am prepared to make the necessary commitment and work to the best of my abilities.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature

Date

I have reviewed the course syllabus and attached pacing calendar with my student, and have encouraged them to reach out to their teacher with any questions or necessary clarifications now, and throughout the year if extra help is needed or desired.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent Name: _____

Preferred Contact: Please provide a phone number or email address.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions. Additionally, feel free to list below any other information that would be helpful for me to know about you/your student. It will remain confidential. Thank you for all the support you give to your children and to Ramsey Public Schools!

Ramsey High School Social Studies Department
Media Content Waiver

Dear Parents/Guardians:

During the course of the year, your student may view a variety of films, documentaries, video clips, and online videos in their Social Studies classes. Some of this media may have a rating of R (typically for language/violence), or deal with sensitive topics such as warfare, genocide, persecution, crime, social issues, etc.

The objective of showing films and video clips is to provide a clearer understanding and perception of various historical, political, economic, and/or social concepts. I will always make an effort to be mindful of the wishes of parents and students when it comes to sensitive content. Students will also get advanced notice if any sensitive content will be displayed in class. An alternative assignment will be given if you do not wish for your student to access such content. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,
Mr. Willever
dwillever@ramsey.k12.nj.us
201-785-2300 x21910

Please return this portion to your Social Studies teacher by September 13, 2019.

Student Name: _____

Course (circle all that apply): Human Geography US History Practical Law

Please Check One:

I *approve* of my student viewing and discussing content as described above _____

I *disapprove* of my students viewing and discussing content as described above _____

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____