

AP Human Geography & Honors Civics 9

Course Syllabus and Information

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Class Overview

Trimester 1 & 2 will focus on AP Human Geography. Trimester 3 will focus on American Civics and Government. This class is rigorous and designed to emulate a college course. While the course has extensive reading assignments and challenging assessments, students will be supported while they experience AP coursework for the first time. The following table outlines the sequence of units the students will study in AP Human Geography & Honors Civics 9.

Trimester 1: AP Human Geography	Trimester 2: AP Human Geography	Trimester 3: Honors Civics
AP Human Geography Unit 1: Geography Basic Concepts	AP Human Geography Unit 5: Cultural Patterns & Processes	Honors Civics: Unit 2: Declaration of Independence & the Constitution
AP Human Geography Unit 2: Population & Migration	AP Human Geography Unit 6: Urban Geography	Honors Civics: Unit 3: Bill of Rights
AP Human Geography Unit 3: Economic & Industrial Development	AP Human Geography Unit 7: Political Geography	Honors Civics: Unit 4: Three Branches of Government
AP Human Geography Unit 4: Agricultural & Rural Land Use	Honors Civics: Unit 1: Foundations of Government	Honors Civics: Unit 5: Immigration & Naturalization

AP Human Geography Curriculum

AP Human Geography is a two-trimester course designed to help students develop a spatial perspective of the earth and its people. Students will utilize geographic processes to systematically study and understand spatial patterns that are evident in the world in which we live. Students will be challenged to think critically by examining maps, graphs and charts. They will learn to use spatial models developed by geographers to analyze the earth and its people. This course is structured according to the course outline found in the most recent *AP Human Geography Course Description* published by the College Board. We will continue our review of the AP material after Trimester 2 ends until the May exam.

The Advanced Placement Human Geography Exam

The College Board offers students an opportunity to take an AP Exam in May. This exam is offered internationally and is optional. Students may earn college credit based on their test performance. The exam is scored on a five-point scale: 5 = Extremely well qualified; 4 = Well qualified; 3 = Qualified; 2 = Possibly qualified; 1 = No recommendation. Most colleges grant credit and placement for a score of 3 or above. Some schools require a 4. You may check with the college or university you plan to attend for details. It is challenging and requires hard work on your part, but a qualifying score is well within your reach. The AP Human Geography Exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes long and includes 60 minutes for 75 multiple-choice questions and 75 minutes for 3 free-response questions. The multiple-choice section accounts for 50% of the student's grade. The free-response section accounts for 50% of the student's grade.

Honors Civics Curriculum

Honors Civics will enhance students' knowledge of United States history from the establishment of colonies through the ratification of the Constitution. They will develop an understanding of how political concepts impact civic life, society, politics, economics and government, and how their role as citizens can impact public policy. Through the study of the Constitution, students will understand the purpose of constitutional government, and the meanings, requirements,

obligations, and privileges of United States citizenship. In addition, students will make connections beyond the classroom and between economics and government by analyzing the characteristics of different economic systems. Students will develop an understanding of their civil rights and civil liberties, as well as their civic responsibilities. Students will continue their study of America

Course Textbooks

Remy, R. C. *United States Government: Democracy in Action*. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 2010.

Rubenstein, J. M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. 11th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2014.

Resources & Textbooks Used for Supplemental Readings and Course Planning

de Blij, H.J., E.H. Fouberg, and A.B. Murphy. *Human Geography: People, Place & Culture*. 11th edition. New York: John Wiley, Inc., 2015.

Kuby, M., J. Harner, and P. Gober. *Human Geography In Action, 6th edition*. New York: John Wiley, Inc., 2013.

Activities for Formative Assessment

Students’ progress will be evaluated with formative assessments throughout the course. These assessments will include unit guided reading questions, quizzes, class activities, electronic games, informal writing, map activities, and discussion.

Exams for Summative Assessment

Unit exams will be timed and will consist of primarily multiple-choice questions. Free-response (essay-type) questions will be administered throughout the course, but usually on a separate day from the test date to allow adequate time.

Projects for Summative Assessment

Students will be completing projects connected to many units of study. Some of these projects will involve Geographic Information Systems software.

Daily Materials:	Contact Information:
3-ring binder with loose leaf paper and at least 12 dividers Writing Utensils Fully charged Chromebook	Sara Lyons slyons@isd271.org Email is the best way to contact me.

If you need extra help, please request to be in my Academic Seminar. There is a sign-up sheet on my classroom door. I will try to pull everyone whose name is on my request list by Friday of the week prior to the Seminar date. Additionally, students who need extra help are welcome to drop by after school. Please let me know when you would like to come in case I have a meeting.

Course Calendar Access

1. **Classroom:** The daily agenda and weekly homework schedule will be posted on the board.
2. **Google Classroom:** We will be enrolling in Google Classroom during class time.
3. **HUB:** The Kennedy website HUB will have a link to your course calendar, including due dates for homework and assessments.
4. **Moodle:** We will regularly use our classroom Moodle page for activities, review, calendar and much more.

Grading Standards

A	94%	C	74%
A-	90%	C-	70%
B+	87%	D+	67%
B	84%	D	64%
B-	80%	D-	60%
C+	77%	F	below 60

Formative Assessments Policies

- Formative/Practice is worth 20% of your grade. This category includes class activities, daily assignments, guided reading questions, practice free-response questions, quizzes, & homework.
- Formative work is practice designed to help students master the skills and content of the course. Formative work is essential to student success in this course.
- Revisions or resubmissions of formative work will not be accepted for grading purposes. However, it is recommended that students revise formative work to improve their learning and success with the material.
- Formative work will be accepted late, but with a **20% penalty**. A final deadline for all late work will be announced near the end of the trimester. After the final formative deadline, no late formatives will be accepted.

Summative Assessments & Retakes Policies

- If a student is **verified absent** on a test day, s/he will have **one week** in which to make-up the missed test. Arrangements need to be made with your instructor within that window. Exceptions will be granted for extenuating circumstances. Missing tests will be completed after school or during Academic Seminar. Students who wait to make-up the test until *after* the one-week timeframe will **not** be eligible for a retake on that assessment. The one-week timeframe will be extended for students with multiple verified absences.
- Students will be **allowed TWO retake opportunities** per trimester. Students may retake one summative assessment of their choice on the official “retake day” at mid-trimester. Additionally, they will be allowed a second retake of an assessment of their choice on Final Exam day during the Review Hour prior to the Final. Students may also elect **not** to retake an assessment on these days. These students will be given the time to complete homework or study instead.
- Students are expected to put in additional study time prior to retaking any assessment. Students **must complete any missing formative work** (i.e. Guided Reading Questions) **and complete the Unit Test Study Guide in Google Classroom** for that unit prior to their retake. If **formative work and the Test Study Guide** is not completed by the retake day, the student will not be allowed to test and will have forfeited their retake opportunity. Students who are verified absent on the official retake day will need to make arrangements with the instructor to complete their retake within **one week** of the original retake day.
- After a retake, the higher of the two test scores will be used for the grade book.
- If a student is **unverified absent** on a test or retake day, they will **not** be allowed a retake for that assessment. Their first score will stand.
- There will be no retakes on Final Exams. □

Cheating and Plagiarism on Summative Work

- Kennedy High School’s cheating & plagiarism policies will apply to students in this course. Please see your student handbook for the building guidelines.